



## Trump issues first veto after rebuke of border order

By JILL COLVIN and ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unbowed by a congressional rebuke, President Donald Trump issued the first veto of his presidency on Friday in a demonstration that he is not through fighting for his signature campaign promise, which stands largely unfulfilled 18 months before voters decide whether to grant him another term. Trump rejected an effort by Congress to block the emergency declaration he'd used to circumvent lawmakers as he tried to shake loose funds for his long-promised wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. The monthslong confrontation now moves to the courts, but not before marking a new era of divided government in Washington and Republicans' increasing independence from the White House.

Continued on Next Page



President Donald Trump speaks about border security in the Oval Office of the White House, Friday, March 15, 2019, in Washington. Associated Press

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**VETO**

**Continued from Front**

"Congress has the freedom to pass this resolution," Trump said, "and I have the duty to veto it."

A dozen defecting Republicans joined Senate Democrats in approving the joint resolution on Thursday as both parties strained to exert their power in new ways. It is unlikely that Congress will have the two-thirds ma-

majority required to override Trump's veto, though House Democrats will try nonetheless on March 26.

Despite the reproach, Trump seized the opportunity to publicly rebuff Congress and show his commitment to the border wall. In embracing the opportunity to deploy the constitutional power of the veto for the first time, he treated the occasion with all the tradition-

al pomp of a bill-signing. Trump was surrounded in the Oval Office by supporters, including law enforcement officials and the parents of children killed by people in the country illegally, who offered profuse thanks and frequent applause. Trump dramatically signed his veto message and then held the document up for the cameras to capture.

Trump wants to use the emergency order to divert billions of federal dollars earmarked for defense spending toward the southern border wall. It still faces several legal challenges from Democratic state attorneys general and environmental groups who argue the emergency declaration was unconstitutional. Those cases could prevent Trump from diverting extra money to barrier construction for months or longer. American Civil Liberties Union, which filed one of the challenges, said the veto is meaningless, like the declaration in the first place.

"Congress has rejected the president's declaration, and now the courts will be the ultimate arbiter of its legality. We look forward to seeing him in court and to the shellacking that he will receive at the hands of an independent judiciary," said Executive Director Anthony Romero.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called Trump's veto a "lawless power grab" and railed that, even after both chambers tried to stop him, Trump "has chosen to continue to defy the Constitution, the Congress and the will of the American people."

Trump, however, insisted the situation on the southern border is "a tremendous national emergency," adding, "our immigration system is stretched beyond the breaking point."

Many lawmakers said Thursday's vote was not necessarily a rejection of the president or the wall, but protections against future presidents — namely a Democrat who might want to declare an emergency on climate change, gun control or any number of other issues.

It was the first direct chal-



President Donald Trump signs the first veto of his presidency in the Oval Office of the White House, Friday, March 15, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

lenge to the 1976 National Emergencies Act, just as a Wednesday vote on Yemen was the first time Congress invoked the decades-old War Powers Act to try to rein in a president. That resolution seeking to end U.S. backing for the Saudi Arabian-led coalition fighting in Yemen was approved in the aftermath of the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul and is expected to be the subject of Trump's second veto.

Despite the embarrassing defections of the 12 GOP senators, Trump's grip on the party remains strong and the White House made it clear that Republicans resisting Trump could face political consequences. Ahead of the voting, Trump framed the issue as with-him-or-against-him on border security, a powerful argument with many.

But Friday, Trump said he had sympathy for the Republicans who voted against him and emphasized that he never truly twisted the arms of lawmakers, because he knew there were not enough votes to override the veto. "Look, they were doing what they have to do," Trump said, insisting he "put no pressure" on lawmakers to vote against the resolution because he realized that the measure was likely to pass.

Still, a White House official

said Trump won't forget when senators who opposed him want him to attend fundraisers or provide other help. The official was not authorized to speak publicly on internal deliberations so spoke on condition of anonymity.

Speaking in the Oval Office, Trump painted his usual portrait of a lawless and violent border. He cited "thousands and thousands" of gang arrests and claimed many of the asylum seekers released into the U.S. were "stone-cold killers," ignoring data that shows immigrants are less likely to commit crime. He noted, correctly, a spike in the number of people coming to the border to claim asylum.

Trump initiated the show-down months ago when he all but dared Congress not to give him the \$5.7 billion he was demanding to build the U.S.-Mexico wall, by threatening a federal government shutdown.

Congress declined and the result was the longest shutdown in U.S. history. Against the advice of GOP leaders, Trump invoked the national emergency declaration last month, allowing him to try to tap about \$3.6 billion for the wall by shuffling money from military projects, and that drew outrage from many lawmakers. Trump had campaigned for president promising Mexico would

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## U.S. bars entry of International Criminal Court investigators

By MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States will revoke or deny visas to International Criminal Court personnel who try to investigate or prosecute alleged abuses

protect the American and allied military and civilian personnel from living in fear of unjust prosecution for actions taken to defend our great nation," Pompeo said.

He said any wrongdoing

employees, Pompeo said: "If you are responsible for the proposed ICC investigation of U.S. personnel in connection with the situation in Afghanistan, you should not assume that you still have or will get a visa or

will be permitted to enter the United States."

That comment suggested that action may have already been taken against the ICC prosecutor who asked last year to formally open an investigation into

allegations of war crimes committed by Afghan national security forces, Taliban and Haqqani network militants, as well as U.S. forces and intelligence officials in Afghanistan since May 2003. □



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speaks during a news conference at the State Department, Friday, March 15, 2019 in Washington.

Associated Press

committed by U.S. forces in Afghanistan or elsewhere, and may do the same with those who seeking action against Israel, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Friday.

The Hague-based court, the first global tribunal for war crimes, said it would continue to operate "undeterred" by the U.S. action. Pompeo made good on a threat delivered last September by President Donald Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton. The U.S. had already moved against some employees of The Hague-based court, Pompeo said, but he declined to say how many or what cases they may have been investigating.

"We are determined to

committed by American personnel would be dealt with in U.S. military and criminal courts.

The visa restrictions would apply to any ICC employee who takes or has taken action "to request or further such an investigation," Pompeo said.

"These visa restrictions may also be used to deter ICC efforts to pursue allied personnel, including Israelis, without allies' consent," he said.

The ICC prosecutor has a pending request to look into possible war crimes in Afghanistan that may involve Americans. The Palestinians have also asked the court to bring cases against Israel.

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## High-profile firing adds to troubles for watchdog group



In this Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2011, file photo, Morris Dees with the Southern Poverty Law Center, right, listens during a news conference, at the Hinds County Courthouse in Jackson, Miss.

Associated Press

By JAY REEVES  
Associated Press  
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — The high-profile firing of the co-founder of a liberal group best known for monitoring hate organizations is only the latest trouble for the nonprofit, which got its start handling civil rights cases in the Deep South. At least three lawsuits filed by U.S. conservatives are pending against the Southern Poverty Law Center over its public labeling of groups it considers extremist, and a separate claim by a British organization

resulted in a multimillion-dollar settlement and an unusual public apology less than a year ago. The Montgomery, Alabama-based law center announced Thursday it had dismissed its 82-year-old founder, Morris Dees. A statement from the group's president, Richard Cohen, didn't specify the reason for Dees' dismissal but said the organization must act when staff conduct doesn't meet its standards. "The SPLC is deeply committed to having a workplace that reflects the values it espouses - truth, justice, equity and inclusion, and we believe the steps we have taken today reaffirm that commitment," Cohen said. The firing could be a blow to the organization where Dees gained fame during a career that included winning multimillion-dollar verdicts against the Ku Klux Klan and the Aryan Nations. He is arguably its best-known public face with thousands of donors who helped the organization build assets totaling \$450 million. Kathy Laing, program manager of the Institute on Philanthropy at the University of Richmond, said tax forms documenting the law center's finances make it appear "they have the financial ability to weather this storm." But, she added: "The dangers come when the founder has the relationships with donors and funders." In a message on the law center's website, Cohen praised Dees' "incredible contributions to the fight

against racial injustice in our country" and added: "But our work is about the cause, not the person." Dees said his dismissal involved a personnel issue but would not elaborate. He also didn't criticize the organization he helped found nearly 50 years ago. "I think the Southern Poverty Law Center is a very fine group and I devoted nearly 50 years of my life to it and I'm proud of its work," Dees said. Board members contacted by The Associated Press either declined comment or referred questions to the law center. Dees' dismissal came nine months after the law center agreed to a \$3.4 million settlement after wrongly labeling a British organization and its founder as extremists. The law center issued statements saying it was wrong to include the London-based Quilliam and Maajid Nawaz in a "Field Guide to Anti-Muslim Extremists." Meanwhile, the law center or its staffers face three similar lawsuits from conservative groups. Most recently, the founder of a far-right men's group called the Proud Boys, Gavin McInnes, sued the Southern Poverty Law Center last month for labeling the organization a hate group. The lawsuit contends the designation is false and damaged McInnes' career. The lawsuits opened a new front for the law center, which has long been a target of the groups it monitors. □

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## APNewsBreak: Greyhound won't let U.S. drop migrants in depots

By **ASTRID GALVAN**

Associated Press

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Greyhound Lines Inc. is no longer allowing U.S. authorities to drop off immigrant families inside bus stations, forcing those who have been released from custody to wait outside until they have a ticket.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement confirmed to The Associated Press on Friday that it had been asked to drop off migrants outside facilities instead of busing them in.

ICE for years has dropped off migrants at Greyhound stations, largely in Phoenix, after releasing them pending court hearings to decide whether they can stay in the country. From the stations, they travel to their intended destination in the United States.

Greyhound spokeswoman Crystal Booker said the company is experiencing an "unprecedented increase of individuals" at certain bus terminals and

that travelers need tickets to get in. She said the policy applies to anyone who lacks a ticket.

"Our priority is to safely and efficiently get customers to their destinations," Booker said in a statement.

Immigrants who are released by ICE don't usually have prior notice and can't make travel arrangements until they arrive at the station. Most of them don't have money and have to wait on a relative or advocacy group to buy their ticket.

A huge number of Central American families have traveled to U.S. in the past few months, many who say they are fleeing violence and plan to seek asylum. Others say they are escaping extreme poverty.

In Arizona alone between Dec. 21, 2018, and March 5, ICE said it had processed for release about 14,500 people who came as families.

Outside the station in Phoenix, about 15 adults and

five children waited in a shaded area near a parking lot Thursday. Some said they had been there for about seven hours.

The federal agency relies on volunteer organizations, many of them faith-based groups, to help families with travel and meals.

Connie Phillips, president and CEO of Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest, said she doesn't blame Greyhound for its policy but rather immigration officials for not having a long-term, sustainable way to deal with releasing migrants.

"Just dropping people off in a place that's not meant to be able to welcome and assist them is not a solution, and we have to work together to create a viable response to this increased need and stop this chaos," Phillips said.



In this May 28, 2014 file photo, migrants are released from ICE custody at a Greyhound Bus station in Phoenix.

Associated Press

Immigration authorities say they release families at bus stations only when volunteer groups run out of space.

"ICE wants to mitigate strains placed on resources in the local community as we continue to see high volumes of families crossing the border," spokeswoman Yasmeeen Pitts O'Keefe said. Phillips said dozens of volunteers have created a

network to respond to the bus station in Phoenix when immigrants are dropped off. They bring food and water, allow migrants to use volunteers' cellphones and help coordinate travel. Phillips said the groups that help out are able to temporarily house about 700 people in churches and congregants' homes in the Phoenix area, but that doesn't suffice. □

## New York rail tunnel project again gets low grade from feds

By **DAVID PORTER**

Associated Press

**NEWARK, N.J. (AP)** — A \$13 billion project to build a new rail tunnel between New York and New Jersey received another blow from federal authorities Friday in the form of a rating that continues to make it ineligible for critical grant funding.

The Federal Transit Administration released its ratings for infrastructure projects around the country and rated the Hudson River tunnel project medium-low, the same rating it gave several months ago. Under FTA guidelines, projects with that rating are ineligible for Capital Investment Grants. Those grants are being sought by the tunnel project partners, which include New Jersey Transit, the Port Authority of New York and

New Jersey and Amtrak. New Jersey Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez called Friday's rating "ludicrous" and said the rating "is as tied to reality as President Trump is tied to the truth."

The Democratic congressional delegations from both states have accused the Trump administration of holding up funding for the tunnel for political payback.

The federal Department of Transportation, meanwhile, has said the project needs more financial commitment from the states.

New Jersey and New York plan to use long-term federal loans to pay for 50 percent of the project, between \$6 billion and \$7 billion, with the federal government paying for the other half with grants. □

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## Midwest flooding forces evacuations, closing of road, river

Associated Press

**OMAHA, Neb. (AP)** — Flooding in the central U.S. on Friday swamped small towns, forced some residents along waterways to evacuate, threatened to temporarily close a nuclear power plant and shut down stretches of a major river and an interstate highway, foreshadowing a difficult spring flooding season. The high water, prompted by a massive late-winter storm, pushed some waterways to record levels in Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota. The flooding was the worst in nearly a decade in places, though the situation was expected to improve quickly in many places over the weekend, according to Mike Gillispie, National Weather Service hydrologist in Sioux Falls.

But in eastern Nebraska, flooding worsened Friday and remained a big concern in the lower Missouri River region — which is a major source for the Mississippi River — with the weather service issuing warnings of high water along the river and its tributaries from southeastern South Dakota to St. Louis in Missouri.

About 45 miles northwest of Omaha, the town of North Bend — home to nearly 1,200 along the banks of the Platte River — emergency workers used boats to evacuate residents. Also Friday afternoon, officials asked residents of Valley, home to nearly 1,900 people just west of Omaha, to evacuate. Within hours of that request, anyone left in the city found all access in



Tom Witke, left, his son Chad, center, and Nick Kenny, launch a boat into the swollen waters of the North Fork of the Elkhorn River, to check on Witke's flooded property, in Norfolk, Neb., Friday, March 15, 2019.

and out cut off by floodwaters from the Elkhorn River. Officials in eastern Nebraska said more than 2,600 people living along the Missouri, Platte and Elkhorn rivers there had been urged to evacuate, as waters breached levees in several rural spots.

"Things are moving and changing at a rapid pace," Douglas County Commissioner Mary Ann Borgeson said Friday at a news conference. "We need you to follow instructions and evacuate when we say you need to evacuate." President Donald Trump on Friday tweeted that he had spoken to Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts about the flooding. The president also praised first responders and emergency response teams for doing "a great

job dealing" with flooding, high winds and road closures.

Rising waters on the Missouri River also led Iowa officials on Friday to shut down much of Interstate 29 from the Missouri state line north about 85 miles (137 kilometers) to about Missouri Valley, Iowa. The closure was reminiscent of historic flooding along the river in 2011 that saw segments of the interstate in western Iowa washed away. Officials on Friday said the river is expected to crest well below what was seen in 2011.

Wisconsin's governor declared a state of emergency Friday as flooding worsened, and Iowa's governor expanded an emergency proclamation issued a day earlier.

The U.S. Coast Guard shut down all traffic on the Missouri River from about 50 miles (80.5 kilometers) south of Omaha, Nebraska, downstream to St. Joseph, Missouri on Friday, a stretch of about 70 miles (112.7 kilometers).

The Coast Guard and Corps also requested all river vessel operators create as little wake as possible between St. Joseph downstream to Kansas City to minimize levee damage.

The restrictions came as the river reached moderate flood stage at nearly 32 feet on Friday at Omaha, where it's expected to crest at nearly 34 feet on Monday, according to the National Weather Service. The river is expected to crest at St. Joseph on Tuesday at just over 30 feet. Major

flood stage at St. Joseph is 27 feet.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which manages the river, drastically increased releases from Gavins Point Dam in southeastern South Dakota due to limited storage capacity behind the dam for the excess runoff. The releases are expected to worsen flooding downstream, though the agency was helping with levee monitoring and other flood response measures, and it stopped releases from Fort Randall Dam upstream from Gavins Point.

The swollen Missouri threatened a nuclear power plant in southeastern Nebraska. The Nebraska Public Power District said it was likely the Cooper Nuclear Station about 59 miles (95.5 kilometers) south of Omaha would be shut down early Saturday.

Officials are confident that the flooding around the plant presents no danger to the public, power district spokesman Mark Becker said.

The storm also significantly increased spring flood worries in the Red River Valley in the Upper Midwest, where the neighboring cities of Fargo, North Dakota, and Moorhead, Minnesota, experienced a record flood 10 years ago.

The two cities have implemented several measures such as home buyouts and levees since then. They could be tested this year. The National Weather Service in an updated outlook Friday said "significant" snowmelt flooding is likely in the valley. □

Associated Press



# Montana trooper's shooting leads to overnight manhunt

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) — A Montana Highway Patrol trooper who was investigating an earlier shooting was himself shot and critically injured early Friday after finding the suspect's vehicle, leading authorities to launch an overnight manhunt that ended in the arrest of a 29-year-old man, officials said.

Another trooper found Wade Palmer, 35, wounded and still buckled into his patrol car near a bar in the small town of Evaro, a statement from Montana Highway Patrol officials said. The shooter had fled. Palmer was taken to a Missoula hospital, where he was listed in critical condi-

tion. Dozens of patrol cars crowded the hospital's parking lot as officers from various law enforcement agencies gathered to pay their respects, and they later a motorcade accompanied Palmer to the airport to be transferred to a Salt Lake City hospital for treatment.

Police shut down that stretch of U.S. Highway 93, warned residents to lock their doors and then spent hours searching before they arrested Johnathan Bertsch at about 6:15 a.m. Bertsch was being held as a suspect in both Palmer's shooting and the earlier shooting about 10 miles (16 kilometers) away in Mis-

soula, where two men and a woman sitting in a car were wounded late Thursday, said Missoula County Chief Deputy Attorney Jason Marks.

No other suspects were being sought in the shootings. Charges were expected to be filed against Bertsch Friday afternoon, and he was expected to make an initial court appearance on Monday, Marks said. There was no immediate information on whether he has a lawyer to speak on his behalf. The three people from the first shooting outside a car dealership were taken to a hospital for gunshot wounds, Missoula police Sgt. Travis Welsh told



Law enforcement cover Montana State Trooper Wade Palmer's car at the scene of the shooting near the Evaro Bar on Friday, March 15, 2019, in Missoula, Mont.

Associated Press

the Missoulian newspaper. Their conditions weren't immediately clear.

Palmer has been a trooper since 2012. He has a wife and two children, and he won the law enforcement agency's highest honor,

the Medal of Valor, in 2015. Bertsch was previously arrested in 2009 for allegedly stealing gas, then leading officers on a chase and ramming his car into a patrol car, the Missoulian reported. □



In this June 6, 2016 file photo, people on a wharf watch as the Mayflower II, the 1957 replica of the famed ship that carried the Pilgrims to Massachusetts in 1620, arrives in Plymouth Harbor in Plymouth, Mass.

Associated Press

## Tribe, 3 countries plan 400th Pilgrim anniversary in 2020

BOSTON (AP) — Native American leaders are teaming up with groups in the U.S., Britain and the Netherlands to ensure next year's commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrim landing showcases the harsh legacy of colonization.

Events are planned in all three countries in 2020 to reflect on the Pilgrims' arrival in 1620 in what is now Massachusetts.

Organizers gathered Thursday at the New England

Historical Genealogical Society to firm up plans for yearlong remembrances of the Mayflower's voyage — and the disease, racism and oppression native people suffered after the European settlers arrived.

Wampanoag activist Paula Peters, who has been insisting on an unvarnished look back, said Friday the tribal perspective is getting "a lot of support."

Past commemorations have glossed over the suffering. □

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# 49 killed at mosques in 'one of New Zealand's darkest days'

Associated Press

**CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP)** — At least 49 people were shot to death at two mosques during mid-day prayers Friday — most if not all of them gunned down by an immigrant-hating white supremacist who apparently used a helmet-mounted camera to broadcast live video of the slaughter on Facebook. One man was arrested and charged with murder, and two other armed suspects were taken into custody while police tried to determine what role, if any, they played in the cold-blooded attack that stunned New Zealand, a country so peaceful that police officers rarely carry guns.

It was by far the deadliest shooting in modern New Zealand history.

"It is clear that this can now only be described as a terrorist attack," Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said, noting that many of the victims could be migrants or refugees.

She pronounced it "one of New Zealand's darkest days."

The gunman who carried out at least one of the mosque attacks posted a jumbled, 74-page manifesto on social media under the name Brenton Tarrant, identifying himself as a 28-year-old Australian and white supremacist who was out to avenge attacks in Europe perpetrated by Muslims.

He also livestreamed in graphic detail 17 minutes of his rampage at Al Noor Mosque, where, armed with at least two assault rifles and a shotgun, he sprayed worshippers with bullets over and over, killing at least 41 people. Several more people were killed in an attack on a second mosque in the city a short time later.

At least 48 people were wounded, some critically. Police also defused explosive devices in a car.

Police did not say whether the same person was responsible for both shootings. They gave no details about those taken into custody except to say that



Police officers prepare to search the area near the Masjid Al Noor mosque, site of one of the mass shootings at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, Saturday, March 16, 2019.

Associated Press

none had been on any watch list.

In the aftermath, the country's threat level was raised from low to high, police warned Muslims against going to a mosque anywhere in New Zealand, and the national airline canceled several flights in and out of Christchurch, a city of nearly 400,000 people.

World leaders condemned the violence and offered condolences, with President Donald Trump tweeting, "We stand in solidarity with New Zealand." Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan and other Islamic leaders pointed to the bloodbath and other such attacks as evidence of rising hostility toward Muslims after 9/11.

New Zealand, with 5 million people, has relatively loose gun laws and an estimated 1.5 million firearms, or roughly one for every three residents. But it has one of the lowest gun homicide rates in the world. In 2015, it had just eight gun homicides, or what passes for a bad weekend in places like Chicago.

Before Friday's attack, New Zealand's deadliest shooting in modern history took place in 1990 in the small town of Aramoana, where a gunman killed 13 people following a dispute with a

neighbor.

On Saturday, the prime minister said the "primary perpetrator" in the shootings was a licensed gun owner and legally acquired the five guns used. Arden said country's gun laws will change as a result of the carnage, but she did not specify how.

New Zealand is also generally considered to be welcoming to migrants and refugees.

The prime minister said the attack reflected "extremist views that have absolutely no place in New Zealand." Immigrants "have chosen to make New Zealand their home, and it is their home," she said. "They are us."

At the White House, Trump called the bloodshed "a terrible thing" but rejected any suggestion the white nationalist movement is a rising threat around the world, saying it is "a small group of people that have very, very serious problems." The gunman, in his rambling manifesto, deemed Trump "a symbol of renewed white identity."

At the Al Noor mosque, witness Len Peneha said he saw a man dressed in black and wearing a helmet with some kind of device on top enter the house of worship and then heard dozens of shots, followed by people

running out in terror.

Peneha, who lives next door, said the gunman ran out of the mosque, dropped what appeared to be a semi-automatic weapon in his driveway and fled. Peneha then went into the mosque to help the victims.

"I saw dead people everywhere. There were three in the hallway, at the door leading into the mosque, and people inside the mosque," he said. "I don't understand how anyone could do this to these people, to anyone. It's ridiculous."

Facebook, Twitter and Google companies scrambled to take down the gunman's video, which was widely available on social media for hours after the horrific attack.

In the video, the killer spends more than two minutes inside the mosque spraying terrified worshippers with gunfire. He then walks outside, where he shoots at people on the sidewalk. Children's screams can be heard in the distance as he returns to his car to get another rifle. He walks back into the mosque, where there are at least two dozen people lying on the ground.

After going back outside and shooting a woman

there, he gets back in his car, where the song "Fire" by the English rock band The Crazy World of Arthur Brown can be heard blasting. The singer bellows, "I am the god of hellfire!" and the gunman drives off before police even arrive.

The second attack took place at the Linwood mosque about 5 kilometers (3 miles) away. Mark Nichols told the New Zealand Herald that he heard about five gunshots and that a worshipper returned fire with a rifle or shotgun.

The footage showed the killer was carrying a shotgun and two fully automatic military assault rifles, with an extra magazine taped to one of the weapons so that he could reload quickly. He also had more assault weapons in the trunk of his car, along with what appeared to be explosives.

The gunman's manifesto was a welter of often politically contradictory views, touching on many of the most combustible issues of the day, among them the Second Amendment right to own guns, Muslim immigration, terrorist attacks and the wealthiest 1 percent.

He portrayed himself as a racist and a fascist and raged against non-Westerners, but said China is the nation that most aligns with his political and social values.

The gunman said he was not a member of any organization, acted alone and chose New Zealand to show that even the most remote parts of the world are not free of "mass immigration."

Last year, New Zealand's prime minister announced that the country would boost its annual refugee quota from 1,000 to 1,500 in 2020. Arden, whose party campaigned on a promise to take in more refugees, called it "the right thing to do."

Christchurch, sometimes called the Garden City, has been rebuilding since an earthquake in 2011 killed 185 people and destroyed many downtown buildings. □



# Slovakia could get its first woman president in ballot

Associated Press

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP)

— Slovakia could get its first woman president as voters elect a new head of state on Saturday.

The leading contenders are Zuzana Caputova, an environmental activist who is in favor of gay rights and opposes a ban on abortion in this conservative Roman Catholic country, and Maros Sefcovic, an establishment figure who is the European Commission Vice-President.

In all, 13 candidates are vying to become the country's fifth head of state since Slovakia gained independence in 1993 after Czechoslovakia split in two. Andrej Kiska, a successful businessman-turned-philanthropist, is not standing for a second five-year term in the largely ceremonial post.

His term in office was marked by clashes with former prime minister Robert Fico, considered a populist leader.

Kiska supported the huge street protests that led to the fall of Fico's coalition government amid a political crisis triggered by the slayings last year of an investigative reporter and his fiancée. The reporter, Jan Kuciak, was investigating possible widespread gov-



A man walks past a campaign poster for Zuzana Caputova in Bratislava, Slovakia, Friday, March 15, 2019.

ernment corruption and Italian mob influence.

If no single candidate wins a majority on Saturday, a runoff will be held on March 30 in this central European nation of 5.4 million people.

## WHAT'S AT STAKE

The president has the power to pick the prime minister, appoint Constitutional Court judges and veto laws. Parliament can override the veto with a simple majority, however. The government, led by the prime minister, possesses most executive powers.

## THE FAVORITES

Zuzana Caputova, a 45-year-old lawyer, is a rising star of Slovak politics. She became

known for leading a successful fight against a toxic waste dump in her home town of Pezinok near the capital of Bratislava, for

which she received an international environmental prize in 2016. She was also part of a campaign in 2017 that led to the annulment of pardons granted by former authoritarian prime minister Vladimir Meciar. She is deputy chairman of "Progressive Slovakia," a non-parliamentary party that supported the massive street protests after Kuciak's death.

Maros Sefcovic

A career diplomat, 52-year-old Sefcovic was a member of the Communist Party before the anti-Communist 1989 Velvet Revolution. Sefcovic accepted an offer to stand from Fico's left-wing Smer-Social Democracy party, a dominant political group in Slovakia in recent years whose reputation has been tarnished by corruption scandals. □

Associated Press

## Cyprus' finance minister to leave post by year's end

By MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS  
Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Cyprus' finance minister said Friday he'll leave the post he's held since 2013 by the end of the year, insisting that the findings of an inquiry that partly blamed him for the demise of one of the country's banks had no bearing on his decision. Georgiades said it was time for him to move on after nearly seven years at the post and defended himself against the inquiry's findings which he called both "mistaken and unfair."

He said he still has the full backing of Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades

amid opposition party calls for his dismissal and that under his stewardship, the Cypriot economy has rebounded strongly.

Anastasiades said the inquiry had no real grounds to apportion blame to Georgiades for billions in bad loans that accumulated at the Co-operative Bank over the decades before his government came to power.

Georgiades, 46, was appointed to steer the Cypriot economy in the immediate aftermath of a multibillion-euro rescue deal that Cyprus was forced to accept after a banking crisis nearly bankrupted the country. □





# Israel-Gaza fighting ebbs, Gaza rockets reportedly a misfire

By JOSEF FEDERMAN  
FARES AKRAM

Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Cross-border fighting between Israel and Gaza's ruling Hamas group appeared to be winding down Friday, amid reports of an Egyptian-brokered truce and Israeli media saying a misfire was believed to be responsible for the rare Gaza rocket attack on Tel Aviv that triggered the exchange. The two rockets had struck late Thursday, taking Israel's military by surprise. Overnight, Israeli warplanes hit some 100 Hamas targets in Gaza. The army said targets included an office complex in Gaza City used to plan and command Hamas militant activities, an underground complex that served as Hamas' main rocket-manufacturing site and a center used for Hamas drone development.

In Gaza, health officials



A Palestinian inspects the damage of destroyed building belongs to Hamas ministry of prisoners hit by Israeli airstrikes in Gaza City, early Friday, March 15, 2019.

Associated Press

reported that four people were wounded, including a husband and wife in the southern town of Rafah. There were no further details. The office building struck by Israel had been used by Hamas' office of prisoner affairs.

On Friday, Israeli media

quoted defense officials as saying a preliminary investigation indicated the rockets were fired from Gaza by mistake. It was not immediately clear if it was a technical malfunction or human error. The Haaretz daily quoted the officials as saying the rockets were

fired during maintenance work. The Israeli military had no immediate comment. Also Friday, a Hamas official said an agreement to restore calm has been reached. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity because Hamas has yet to announce the

deal, said Egypt led mediation efforts "that have apparently paid off."

The sudden outbreak of violence came at a sensitive time for both sides.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is in the midst of a tight re-election battle. A tough response would draw international criticism and domestic accusations that he is acting out of political motivations ahead of the April 9 vote. But a restrained response will draw criticism from his fellow hard-line rivals.

Hamas, meanwhile, is coping with its own domestic troubles. Israel and Egypt have maintained a crippling blockade on Gaza since Hamas took over the territory in 2007. The blockade, along with sanctions by the rival Palestinian Authority and Hamas' own mismanagement have fueled an economic crisis that has driven unemployment over 50 percent. □

# Crowds throng Algerian cities to demand president step down

**ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)** —

With Algerian flags on their backs, people of all ages marched Friday through Algeria's capital and other cities amid heavy security for what could be decisive protests against longtime leader Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

The crowds packing leafy boulevards throughout central Algiers appeared bigger than a week ago, when hundreds of thousands took to the streets to demand an end to Bouteflika's 20-year rule.

Chanting "Bouteflika, Get Out" and other slogans, diverse groups converged on three public plazas that have become focal points for an exceptional, month-long public uprising against the country's shadowy leadership. Their numbers surged after midday Muslim prayers.

Algerians have barely seen Bouteflika in public since he suffered a 2013 stroke, and many are angry at a power structure widely seen as corrupt. Millions struggle to



Algeria's new prime minister Nouredine Bedoui gives a press conference, in Algiers, Algeria, Thursday, March 14, 2019.

Associated Press

make ends meet despite the country's gas wealth. The warm spring sun seemed to encourage the protesters, who were so numerous that it was difficult to move on some streets in Algiers. Algerian media reported protests in several other cities around Africa's

biggest country. Students, teachers, judges and unions were among those joining Friday's protests. Riot police vans lined side streets of Algiers and surveillance helicopters circled overhead. A group of young women delighted in taking selfies

with smiling police officers. Shops along the march routes turned a brisk profit selling Algerian flags and pizza or honey-filled pastries. The diverse crowd included women with and without headscarves, and fathers carrying children on their shoulders.

The protesters want to send a mass message that they are rejecting Bouteflika's attempt this week to defuse Algeria's political crisis. Bouteflika ceded to protesters' demands that he abandon plans for a fifth term, and promised reforms addressing concerns of frustrated, struggling youth. But he also canceled the April 18 presidential election, a move that critics fear could allow him to cling to power. Police surrounding the Algiers' central post office appeared largely unarmed, and their plastic riot shields rested on the ground or in vans nearby. That could be a message from Algerian authorities — known for their heavy-handed security posture — that they want to avoid unrest or provoking public anger.

Among protesters' chants were "gang of thieves" and "you ruined Algeria, we don't want you." Others chanted "peaceful demonstration" in an effort to ensure that things don't get out of hand. □



# NKorean official: Kim rethinking US talks, launch moratorium

By ERIC TALMADGE  
Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea

(AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will soon decide whether to continue diplomatic talks and maintain his moratorium on missile launches and nuclear tests, a senior North Korean official said Friday, adding that the U.S. threw away a golden opportunity at the recent summit between their leaders.

Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, addressing a meeting of diplomats and foreign media, including The Associated Press, in Pyongyang said the North was deeply disappointed by the failure of the two sides to reach any agreements at the Hanoi summit between Kim and President Donald Trump.

She said Pyongyang now has no intention of compromising or continuing talks unless the United States takes measures that are commensurate to the changes it has taken — such as the 15-month moratorium on launches and tests — and changes its "political calculation."

Choe, who attended the Feb. 27-28 talks in Hanoi, said Kim was puzzled by what she called the "eccentric" negotiation position of the U.S. She suggested that while Trump was more willing to talk, an atmosphere of hostility and mistrust was created by the uncompromising demands of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and national security adviser John Bolton. She said statements by senior Trump advisers since the summit have further worsened the climate.

In Washington, Pompeo and Bolton disputed the allegation. "They are wrong about that. I was there," Pompeo said Friday. Bolton said in any case Trump "is our decision-maker."

Pompeo said the U.S. expects Kim to live up to his promise to Trump to maintain the moratorium on missile launches and nuclear tests.

"In Hanoi, on multiple occasions, he spoke directly to the president and made a

commitment that he would not resume nuclear testing nor would he resume missile testing," Pompeo said. "So that's Chairman Kim's word. We have every expectation he will live up to that commitment."

Despite the tensions, Choe said personal relations between the two leaders are still good "and the chemistry is mysteriously wonderful."

She said it was entirely up to Kim whether to continue the launch and test moratorium, and said she expects he will "clarify his position" within a short period of time.

"On our way back to the homeland, our chairman of the state affairs commission said, 'For what reason do we have to make this train trip again?'" she said.

"I want to make it clear that the gangster-like stand of the U.S. will eventually put the situation in danger. We have neither the intention to compromise with the U.S. in any form nor much less the desire or plan to conduct this kind of negotiation."

Choe questioned the claim by Trump at a news conference after the talks in Hanoi broke down that the North was seeking the lifting of all sanctions against it, and said it was seeking only the ones that are directed at its civilian economy. After the summit had ended, State Department officials clarified that was indeed the North's position, but said the lifting of economic sanctions was such a big demand that it would essentially subsidize the North's continued nuclear activity.

Choe said it was the U.S. that was being too demanding and inflexible and called the demand that denuclearization come before sanctions are eased "an absurd sophism." She added that while South Korean President Moon Jae-in has tried to help bring the U.S. and North Korea together to talk, the South is "a player, not an arbiter" because it is an ally of Washington.

She said even though the

people, military and officials of the munitions industry have sent Kim thousands of petitions to never give up the nuclear program, he went to Hanoi to build trust and carry out mutually agreed commitments "one by try and step by step."

"What is clear is that the U.S. has thrown away a golden opportunity this time," she said. "I'm not sure why the U.S. came out with this different description. We never asked for the removal of sanctions in their entirety."

"This time we understood very clearly that the United States has a very different calculation to ours," she added.

She refused to comment directly when asked by one of the ambassadors about



North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, center, speaks at a gathering for diplomats in Pyongyang, North Korea on Friday, March 15, 2019.

Associated Press

news reports the North may be preparing for another missile launch or satellite launch.

"Whether to maintain this moratorium or not is the

decision of our chairman of the state affairs commission," she said, using one of Kim's titles. "He will make his decision in a short period of time." □

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# Policy shift means uneasy wait in Mexico for asylum seekers

By ELLIOT SPAGAT  
Associated Press

**TIJUANA, Mexico (AP)** — Juan Carlos Perla says he spent his first night in the U.S. in a cold immigration cell with 21 others at the nation's busiest border crossing. Fluorescent lights were always on in the basement holding area. Space was so tight that he laid his sleeping mat next to a toilet. The 36-year-old from El Salvador soon reunited with his wife and three sons, ages 6, 4 and 10 months, who were in another cell, and the family returned to Tijuana, Mexico, to await asylum hearings in San Diego. They were one of the first families to contend with a radical U.S. policy shift that makes asylum seekers stay in Mexico while their cases wind through immigration courts. Looking rattled hours later, Perla said he would skip his court date and instead settle in Mexico.

"Our fear is that we lose our case and get deported" back to El Salvador, Perla said. "That's suicide for me, my wife and my children." Perla told a U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer that he and his family abandoned their small bakery in the Salvadoran capital after he missed a monthly extortion payment to the 18th Street gang. They beat him and threatened to kill him and his family if he failed to pay the next installment, according to an interview transcript. If his family's experience is a sign, the policy may be having its intended effect of discouraging asylum claims, which have helped fuel a court backlog of more than 800,000 cases and forced people to wait years for a ruling. Trump administration officials say they want to deter weak claims, freeing up judges to consider more deserving cases.

A federal judge in San Francisco has scheduled a March 22 hearing to consider a request by advocacy groups to halt the practice.

Change is being introduced slowly — 240 people were returned to Tijuana



In this March 5, 2019, image, Ruth Aracely Monroy helps her son, Carlos, with his jacket among tents set up inside a shelter for migrants in Tijuana, Mexico.

Associated Press

from San Diego in the first six weeks. The administration expanded its "Migrant Protection Protocols" strategy on Monday to a second border crossing, in Calexico, California, and officials say the practice will grow along the entire border.

The shift comes as more asylum-seeking families from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador arrive at the U.S. border with Mexico.

Border Patrol agents in San Diego have been told to target people who speak Spanish and come from Latin America, according to a memo obtained by The Associated Press. The memo says pregnant women and LGBT migrants are to be spared. The administration has said all along that Mexicans are exempt, as are children traveling alone.

Waiting in Tijuana is an unanticipated setback for asylum seekers who had hoped to be released in the U.S. while awaiting a judge's ruling. In Mexico, they lack the family connections they have in the U.S., and some say they feel unsafe.

Selvin Alvarado, his partner

and their children from previous relationships stayed at a Tijuana shelter for about six weeks while waiting to be called on an informal list of asylum seekers seeking to enter the U.S. at the San Diego crossing. To earn money, Alvarado unloaded ceramic tiles from delivery trucks in Tijuana while his partner watched their boys, ages 10 and 7.

After claiming asylum, Alvarado was separated from his family and put in an all-male cell with fluorescent lights that were always on and made him lose track of night and day. He told a CBP officer the next day that that he was "afraid of paramilitary groups in Honduras" and that he fled with his family after he discovered the head of his farming collective was stealing money and someone threatened to kill one of his children, according to an interview transcript.

Alvarado, 29, who came with a police report and other documents explaining work-related threats, was sent back to Tijuana with his 10-year-old, while his wife and her son were released in the U.S. and

settled with Alvarado's cousin in Houston. He says he cannot work in Tijuana because he has no one to care for his son.

Many immigrants' struggles are compounded by the scarcity of legal advice. Customs officials offer a list of potential legal aid providers, but Alvarado said his calls to those groups elicited no response. Al Otro Lado, a Los Angeles-based legal group working out of a building in downtown Tijuana, gave him an overview of U.S. asylum procedures but no individual advice.

For immigration attorneys, it can be difficult to extend help to people who are on the other side of the border.

The American Bar Association's Immigration Justice Project of San Diego cannot afford to go to Tijuana and will not pursue grants without insurance and license to practice in Mexico, said Adela Mason, the group's director.

Catholic Charities of the San Diego Diocese had to overcome worries about safety and not having license.

"It's a fine line between go-

ing down there and providing assistance in a way that is legal but not practicing law in Mexico," said Nadine Topozada, the group's director of refugee and immigrant services.

Initial asylum hearings in downtown San Diego are scheduled within 45 days, and administration officials hope to put them on a fast track. When their day arrives, asylum seekers are told to report to the border crossing for temporary admission to the U.S. for a bus ride to court.

Dr. Juan Ramon Molina, a primary care physician in Honduras' Nacaome Valley, told a CBP officer that government forces twice tried to kidnap him for his role in an opposition political party and that he did not seek asylum in Guatemala or Mexico because he has family in the U.S. They are in Los Angeles. Houston, Chicago, Detroit, Washington, D.C., Miami and West Virginia.

Molina, 35, has been looking online for legal help at a Tijuana migrant shelter ahead of his April 8 court date and says he fears that his political adversaries will track him down. Still, he says it is better than being detained in the U.S., where he spent two days in a basement cell at the San Diego crossing that he said was overcrowded and cold.

"The treatment was inhumane," he said.

Before he gave up and returned to Mexico, Perla had arranged for a pastor in Berkeley, California, to give him a room, find legal advice and arrange schooling for his children. In Tijuana, his family is living in a tent inside a migrant shelter.

"My case is a lost cause," he said. □

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# Check out our Museums at the National Anthem & Flag Day

ORANJESTAD – Arubans are proud of their anthem and flag. A special day is dedicated to honor these two national prides and Monday is that day. All around the island festivities are taking place and this is a day you can actually indulge into Aruban flavor all way. The museums of Aruba also open their doors, so take a look at our cultural treasures.

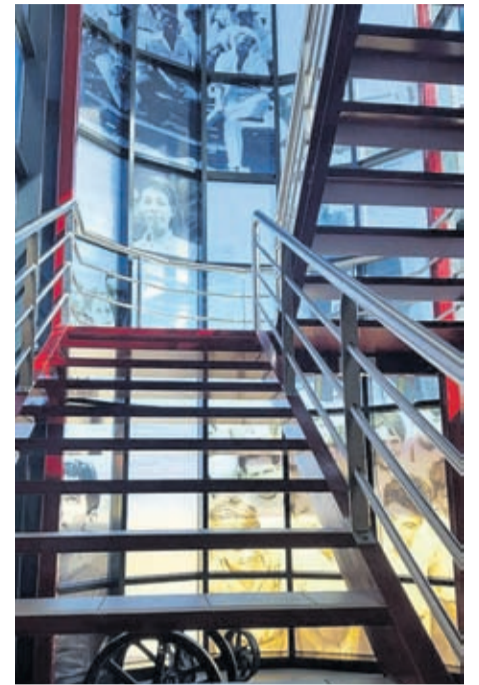
These museums are Aruba Historical Museum, Carnival Euphoria Museum (this one recently opened its doors), Museum of Industry and the Community Museum. All four will be open from 10am till 4pm, with an entry fee of only 2.50 florin (\$ 1, 40) to support these museums.

Museum Managers Nyohmi Van Der Biezen and Mariana Paula explain that the day will start with the national anthem 'we are proud to raise our flags' with singers Edjean Semeleer and Veloushka Krozendijk performing.

Aruba Museum Foundations recommend to start first at the Fort



Zoutman in Oranjestad, since this is the oldest museum here on the island. After a visit you can continue to San Nicolas. Typical Aruban food and drinks will be offered in all of these locations while several folkloric dance groups take care of the entertainment. The Aruba famous 'caha di orgel' and singers of the Aruban festival of anthem



and flag will also be present.

The day will be ending with a performance of local band Nfuzion, the band will be playing from 4pm till 6pm at the Fort Zoutman museum and the band Rincon Boys at the Nicolas Store at the same time.

"What we want is that people

come and get to know more about our history and culture.

This contribution is also to support our museums and to keep a good maintenance since these monuments are old. We invite the entire community of Aruba to join us this day. To celebrate our identity", says an enthusiastic Van Der Biezen. □

Happy Anthem & Flag Day

'O Aruba, dushi tera nos baranca tan stima  
nos amor pa'bo t'asina grandi  
cu n'tin nada pa kibre'

**SETAR**  
Creando Conexion



# The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island

EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba’s loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassador. The Goodwill Ambassador is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were Randy & Nancy Harbour from Michigan, together with Kenneth and Kathleen Weis from Ohio.

These lovely people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, delicious variety of foods, all the good memories they have of the island, and Aruba’s warm and friendly people.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of The Aruba Beach Club presented the certificates to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



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## Honoring of loyal and friendly visitors at Marriott Ocean Club



PALM BEACH— Jonathan Boekhoudt of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor several of Aruba’s loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors and Goodwill Ambassadors. The Distinguished Visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees are Michael Niederhauser & Mindy Wallace honored as Distinguished Visitors as they have been visiting Aruba for 10 consecutive years.

The honorees stated that they love coming to the island especially for the lovely people, the beautiful weather and the breathtaking sunset.

Boekhoudt together with Jenny Boekhoudt of the Aruba Marriott Surf Club presented the certificates to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



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**Beach Bar rocks St. Patrick's Day**



**EAGLE BEACH** — At St. Patrick's Day head over to the new Beach Bar located across the street from Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort. The bar is part of Divi Resorts, but accessible to all: guests, non-guests and locals. On the water's edge, take your seat in paradise. Cocktails, cool sounds and low-slung sofas are the ingredients for this success formula. This is your toes in the sand with a drink in the hand-fav spot! Especially on March 17th from 5 PM to 2 AM: live DJ AND band Orange Grove.

The live band Orange Grove plays Caribbean Crossover. Reggae with a twist. Musical goodness for the body and mind! Band members Michael Maidwell, Jacob Streefkerk, Robert Biesewig and Tim Kesteloo will make sure you will not forget St. Patrick's Day and the location of Beach Bar is the cherry on the cake. Theme colors are Green & Orange, so be cre-



ative! This will be your Clovers & Oranges night.

St Patrick's Day, on March 17, remembers one of Ireland's patron saints, St Patrick. It largely celebrates Irish-American culture in the United States. The three-leaf clover was said to be used by the saintly bishop to explain the Trinity to the pagans, which is why it is such a common St. Patrick's Day symbol today. □



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## Try your Luck at Bugaloe this St. Patrick's Day, Aye!



**EAGLE BEACH** — Have you got the luck of the Irish? Come down to Bugaloe this St. Patrick's Day and find out! Bugaloe is hosting the island's best St. Patty's Day party with amazing drinks and delicious food to celebrate this green holiday on Sunday, March 17th. Go 'On the lash' with the old time favourite local beers or an assortment of holiday drinks and specials!

This St. Patrick's Day come to Bugaloe and allow the Travel Session Band to blow you away with their performance starting at 7pm. Don't be afraid to test your luck and simply dance, sing and swing with your favourite band this Sunday! It really is the best way to end this lucky day! Need some extra motivation? Make sure to be there during our Daily Happy Hours from 5-6pm and 10-11pm!



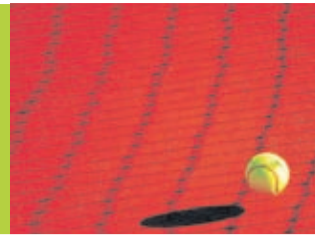
Bugaloe is located on De Palm Pier between the Hilton Resort and the RIU Hotel. Put on your green and get into the St. Patrick's Day spirit- we'll be waiting for you this Sunday, March 17th!

For more information or reservations, please call Bugaloe at +297-586-2233 or visit [www.bugaloe.com](http://www.bugaloe.com). ☐





# SPORTS



Rafael Nadal, of Spain, celebrates his victory over Karen Khachanov, of Russia, at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament Friday, March 15, 2019, in Indian Wells, Calif. Nadal won 7-6 (2), 7-6 (2).  
Associated Press

## Federer, Nadal on collision course in semis at Indian Wells

By BETH HARRIS  
AP Sports Writer

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP) — It's Federer vs. Nadal again, only this time it'll be in the semifinals of the BNP Paribas Open.

Roger Federer beat Hubert Hurkacz 6-4, 6-4 and Rafael Nadal got by Karen Khachanov 7-6 (2), 7-6 (2) on Friday to set up the old rivals' 39th career meeting and first in 16 months.

Neither Federer nor Nadal has dropped a set in four matches in the desert. Federer has been broken just once, while Nadal has dropped serve three times, twice against Khachanov. Nadal stands in the way of Federer's pursuit of a record sixth title at Indian Wells.

Still, the Swiss superstar was rooting for Nadal to advance against his 22-year-old opponent.

Continued on Page 22

# FLEETWOOD MAC



## McIlroy, Fleetwood share halftime lead at TPC

Tommy Fleetwood, of England, reacts to a missed putt on the 17th hole during the second round of The Players Championship golf tournament Friday, March 15, 2019, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.



# McIlroy, Fleetwood share lead at Players Championship



Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, tees off on the ninth hole during the second round of The Players Championship golf tournament Friday, March 15, 2019, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

By DOUG FERGUSON  
AP Golf Writer  
PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Rory McIlroy was nearly as good at the end as Tommy Fleetwood was at the start Friday in The Players Championship. McIlroy hit a 4-iron to 10 feet for eagle, ran in a 20-foot birdie putt on the island-green 17th and then made a bold play with a towering shot over a tree 20 feet in front of him to secure par. It added to a 7-under 65, and his best start on the TPC Sawgrass in his 10 appearances. Fleetwood took his good swing from the range to the course and watched it pay off with a birdie-eagle-birdie start that carried him to a 67. They shared the lead at 12-under 132, three shots clear of anyone else. And they were nine shots ahead of Tiger Woods, who

played solid golf except for one hole — the wrong hole. Woods put two balls into the water on the notorious par-3 17th, leading to a quadruple bogey that wiped out a good start and forced him to settle for a 71. Given the nature of this golf course — and a forecast for a different wind — the fun might just be starting. And that's as far as McIlroy was willing to look. "Winning is a byproduct of doing all the right things, and I feel like if I can continue to do those things well, hopefully I do end up with the trophy on Sunday," he said. "But there's a lot of golf to play before that." The biggest surprise from the group three shots behind might be the 48-year-old Furyk, mainly because he didn't think he would be at Sawgrass. After devoting two years as Ryder Cup captain, his world ranking

plunged 194 spots to No. 231. But a great finish at the start of the Florida swing to tie for ninth moved him high enough in the FedEx Cup to get into the strongest field in golf at the last minute. And then he delivered his best score in 80 rounds over 25 years, a 64 that put him in the group at 9-under 135. "I thought this was an off week," Furyk said. "It's a nice gift, an opportunity." Ian Poulter, who resurrected his PGA Tour career with a runner-up finish at The Players two years ago, had a 66 and was three shots behind, along with Abraham Ancer of Mexico (66) and Brian Harman (69). Dustin Johnson, the world's No. 1 player, also had an eagle-birdie-par finish for a 68. He was in the group five shots behind. McIlroy hasn't won since Bay Hill a year ago, though

he has had his chances for more. The Arnold Palmer Invitational last week was the ninth time in his last 30 tournaments dating to the start of 2018 that he played in the final group without winning. But he has been patient. He says his attitude has been good all year, and it can be tested severely on the Players Stadium Course. There is no sense of panic or a need to start pressing if he gets into that position again. "I just need to keep seeing red numbers," McIlroy said. "I don't need a win. I'm not putting myself under pressure to ... again, winning is a byproduct of doing all the things that I'm doing well. ... If I focus on winning, what goes into that?" After a sluggish start — even par through seven holes — McIlroy poured it on by taking aim at flags

when he could. He ran off four birdies in a five-hole stretch around the turn, and then blistered a 4-iron with a right-to-left wind allowing him to keep his mind off the water to the right of the green on the par-5 16th. The ball bounced onto the green to 10 feet for birdie. He followed with a wedge to the back shelf on the island green and another birdie to tie for the lead, and then made his great escape by opening the face of a pitching wedge to get over the tree, and letting the wind guide it back to the green. Walking toward the green, McIlroy said he told NBC Sports analyst Roger Maltbie that "playing with Phil the last two days maybe inspired me to play a shot like that." That would be Phil Mickelson, who didn't play very inspired, at all. Mickelson had another 74 and missed the cut at The Players for the sixth time in the last seven years. He wasn't alone. Jordan Spieth missed the cut for the third time in eight starts this year, getting inside the cut line with a series of birdies before he was slowed by shots into the water on consecutive holes. He had a 69. Fleetwood knows a thing or two about fast starts. Last month in Mexico, he started eagle-eagle. This felt just as good, perhaps because of his standing in the tournament. Fleetwood, who shared the 18-hole lead, was two behind when he teed off and back in the lead after just two holes. He made a 12-foot birdie on No. 1, holed a bunker shot for eagle on the par-5 second and then made a 25-footer on No. 3. "I had a great range session warming up, and all you want to do then is make sure you try and take that out onto the course, which was very different," Fleetwood said. "I had the absolute dream start. ... Today was a little bit more up and down, but it's going to be. There was a lot of good stuff, and I just feel really happy with it." □



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## Irving has triple-double, Celtics beat Kings 126-120

By The Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** — Kyrie Irving had 31 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds and the Boston Celtics overcame a 17-point first-half deficit to beat the Sacramento Kings 126-120 on Thursday night. It was Irving's second career triple-double. His first was with Cleveland on Feb. 28, 2014, against Utah. Jaylen Brown added 22 points, and Marcus Morris had with 21 points and 13 rebounds.

It was Boston's second victory over Sacramento in eight days, and the Celtics' fourth win in five games overall.

Buddy Hield led Sacramento with 34 points. The Kings lost for the 11th straight time in Boston.

**RAPTORS 111, LAKERS 98**

**TORONTO (AP)** — Kawhi Leonard scored 25 points, Norman Powell had 20 and Toronto beat Los Angeles. LeBron James scored 29 points and Alex Caruso had a career-high 16 for Los Angeles. The struggling Lakers lost for the sixth time in seven games, further denting their fading playoff hopes.

Pascal Siakam scored 16 points and Marc Gasol added 15 to help Toronto win its ninth consecutive meeting with the Lakers, extending a franchise record. The Raptors also set a franchise record with their 20th victory of the season against a Western Conference opponent.

**NUGGETS 100, MAVERICKS**

99

**DENVER (AP)** — Nikola Jokic hit a falling one-handed shot as time expired to lift Denver over weary Dallas. Jokic rescued Denver after the Nuggets trailed by 12 early in the fourth quarter. He finished with 11 points, 14 rebounds and eight assists, hitting all four of his field goals in the fourth. Luka Doncic led Dallas with 24 points. He had a go-ahead dunk with 5.8 seconds left, but Jokic topped it by leaning to his right and letting a shot go before the buzzer.

Paul Millsap finished with a season-high 33 points for the Nuggets (45-22), who strengthened their hold on the No. 2 spot in the Western Conference.

Jalen Brunson had 20 points and Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 17 for the well-traveled Mavericks.

**PACERS 108, THUNDER 106**

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — Wesley Matthews tipped in a basket with 1.8 seconds left and Indiana overcame an 18-point deficit to beat Oklahoma City.

Domantas Sabonis scored 26 points against his former team, and the Pacers won their second straight by erasing the Thunder's lead in the final 15 minutes. Indiana's magic number for clinching a playoff spot is one.

Paul George led the Thunder with 36 points in his second trip back to Indianapolis since a blockbuster trade in July 2017. Russell West-

brook added 19 points, 14 rebounds and 11 assists, but missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

**JAZZ 120, TIMBERWOLVES 100**

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)** — Donovan Mitchell scored 24 points, Jae Crowder had 18 and Utah beat travel-weary Minnesota.

Derrick Favors added 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Jazz.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 26 points for Minnesota. □



Boston Celtics guard Kyrie Irving (11) drives against Sacramento Kings guard De'Aaron Fox in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, March 14, 2019, in Boston.

Associated Press

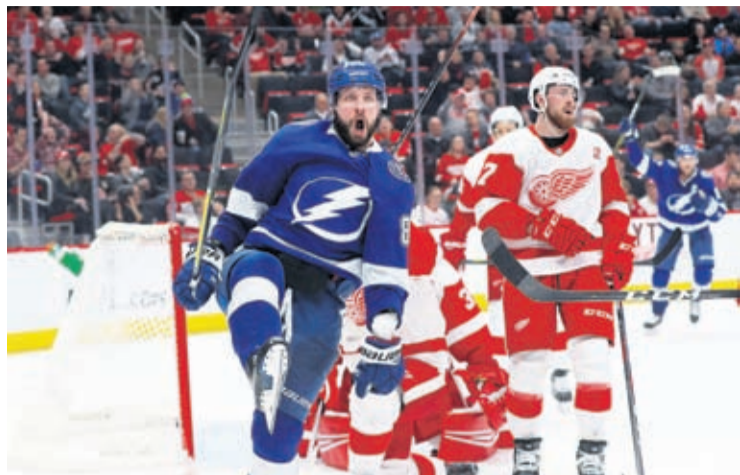
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# Stamkos ties team record, Lightning rally past Red Wings 5-4



Associated Press

**DETROIT (AP)** — Steven Stamkos tied Vincent Lecavalier for Tampa Bay's career lead in goals, Nikita Kucherov scored twice in the third period and the Lightning rallied from a three-goal deficit to beat the Detroit Red Wings 5-4 on Thursday night.

The Red Wings led 3-0 in the second when Stamkos scored on the power play to start Tampa Bay's comeback. His 383rd goal pulled him even with Lecavalier, and the NHL-leading Lightning weren't done. The league's highest-scoring team added four goals in the third, with Kucherov and Tyler Johnson scoring 26 seconds apart to give Tampa Bay the lead with 11:10 remaining. Kucherov made it 5-3 with 3:22 left.

Brayden Point also scored early in the third for the Lightning. Madison Bowey, Darren Helm, Justin Abdelkader and Michael Rasmussen scored for the Red Wings, who lost for the 12th time in 13 games. Tampa Bay tied its franchise record of 54 wins, set last season.

**PENGUINS 5, SABRES 0**

**BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)** — Phil Kessel had a goal and an assist, Sidney Crosby added two assists and Pittsburgh blanked Buffalo.

Nick Bjugstad and Jake Guentzel each had a goal and an assist for the surging Penguins, who have won six of seven and sit third in the Metropolitan Division. Brian Dumoulin and Patric Hornqvist also scored, and Casey DeSmith made 26 saves for his fourth career shutout.

Carter Hutton stopped 21 shots for the Sabres, who matched a franchise record with three consecutive shutout losses. It happened for the first time last season during a three-game stretch that concluded with a 4-0 loss to Pittsburgh.

**STARS 4, WILD 1**

**ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)** — Radek Faksa, Roope Hintz and Joel L'Esperance scored in a span of 2:22 early in the second period, and Dallas hung on to beat Minnesota after goalie Ben Bishop got hurt.

Anton Khudobin stopped 14 of the 15 shots he faced in relief of Bishop, who made seven saves and established a franchise record by stretching his scoreless streak to 240:53 before exiting with a lower-body injury.

Alexander Radulov added an empty-netter for the Stars, who have won six of their last seven games — five in regulation.

Jason Zucker had the only goal for the Wild, who took a big hit in the Western Conference wild-card race with their third consecutive loss. They're in ninth place with 74 points and 11 games to go, trailing Arizona by three points for the final spot.

Minnesota is 1-6-3 in its last 10 home games since Jan. 19.

The Stars, meanwhile, moved into a tie with St. Louis for third place in the Central Division with 79 points. They have 12 games remaining, as do the Blues.

**ISLANDERS 2, CANADIENS 1**

**UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP)** — Anders Lee scored the tie-breaking goal late in the third period and Thomas Greiss stopped 33 shots as New York beat Montreal.

Adam Pelech also scored in the second period to help the Islanders win for the fourth time in five games to remain two points behind first-place Washington in the Metropolitan Division.

Jordie Benn had the tying goal for Montreal late in the second, and Carey Price finished with 36 saves. Lee converted on a 2-on-1 with Matthew Barzal for his team-leading 25th goal of the season with 2:57 remaining.

**JETS 4, BRUINS 3**

**WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP)** — Mark Scheifele had a goal and two assists to help Winnipeg hand Boston its third straight loss.

Blake Wheeler added a goal and an assist, and Jacob Trouba and Nikolaj Ehlers also scored for the Jets. Patrik Laine had two assists and Connor Hellebuyck stopped 36 shots as Winnipeg moved three points ahead of Nashville atop the Central Division.

Charlie McAvoy, Joakim Nordstrom and Charlie Coyle scored for Boston and David Krejci had two assists. Tuukka Rask finished with 20 saves.

Ehlers scored the eventual game-winner with just under 7 minutes left after Trouba put the Jets ahead 3-2 earlier in the third period. Coyle got Boston within one with 2:56 remaining, but the Bruins couldn't tie it up.

**CAPITALS 5, FLYERS 2**

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Brett Connolly had two goals and an assist to help Washington maintain its lead atop the Metropolitan Division.

Evgeny Kuznetsov added a goal and an assist, and Lars Eller and Tom Wilson also scored as the Capitals stayed two points ahead of the second-place New York Islanders in the division. Braden Holtby stopped 22 shots.

James van Riemsdyk and Scott Laughton scored for Philadelphia, and Carter Hart finished with 27 saves. The Flyers remained five points out of the second wild card in the Eastern Conference.

**SENATORS 2, BLUES 0**

**OTTAWA, Ontario (AP)** — Anders Nilsson stopped 34 shots for his second shutout to lead Ottawa.

Christian Wolanin and Chris Tierney scored to help the Senators snap a three-game losing streak. The shutout was Nilsson's sixth of his career.

Jake Allen made 19 saves in the loss for the Blues (36-27-7).

The rebuilding Senators had two players making NHL debuts — defenseman Erik Brannstrom and forward Max Veronneau.

**COYOTES 6, DUCKS 1**

**GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)** — Vinnie Hinostroza's first career hat trick sent Arizona past Anaheim.

Hinostroza scored his third goal of the night with 51 seconds left, and hats came flying out of the crowd onto the ice.

Jason Demers added a goal and an assist for the rolling Coyotes, who have won 10 of 12. □

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## Slow down: Browns GM tempers expectations after Beckham deal

By TOM WITHERS

CLEVELAND (AP) — Fans are scrambling to get their hands on tickets, jerseys and make their first Odell Beckham Jr. sighting.

It's only mid-March and Cleveland's in a full-blown football frenzy. Expectations for the upcoming season, which were already enormous before the team traded for Beckham, have spun out of control.

Browns general John Dorsey's trying to rein them in. Super Bowl? Slow down, folks.

"Expectations, I hear a lot about that, but I know this — good football teams, they win in the fall," Dorsey said Thursday, a day after the Browns officially landed Beckham in a franchise-changing trade from the New York Giants. "What we have done is we have added some talent. Now, the chemistry part has to take over with it.

"Teams win in the fall. They do not win in March, and that is good teams."

He's constructed a pretty good one as well — at least on paper.

Dorsey, who has transformed the Browns from winless to contenders in just more than a year, figured to make some moves during the offseason to upgrade his roster. However, when he recently said at the combine that he wasn't prepared to "go for it" it appeared he would wait until the draft to add talent.

That changed with his stunning acquisition of Beckham, one of the NFL's biggest stars, along with Pro Bowl edge rusher Olivier Vernon in a trade from New York as well as signing defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson to a three-year, \$36 million free agent contract. Dorsey also made several other moves de-



In this Oct. 7, 2018, file photo, New York Giants' Odell Beckham Jr. celebrates a catch against the Carolina Panthers during the first half of an NFL football game in Charlotte, N.C.

Associated Press

signed to plug holes.

As has been his way, Dorsey never tipped his hand.

"We lay out certain plans on the time," Dorsey said.

"At the end of the day, we have been consistent in saying that we are going to try to create competition at as many positions as we can going into training camp. With the addition of certain players that we have acquired, I think we will be competitive and we will begin to try to be competitive in the AFC North."

The Browns haven't made the playoffs since 2002, when their division was created. For most of the past 20 years, they've been at the bottom, held down by powerful teams in Pittsburgh, Baltimore and Cincinnati.

But with the Steelers and Ravens reduced by offseason

departures and Cincinnati starting over, the Browns have been ordained by some as the team to beat in the North.

Imagine that.

Dorsey insists his flurry of major moves was not influenced by anything external.

"What we attempted to do here is add some good football players to the team, and then let's go compete and let's see how the group can come together as one and go and achieve the goals that they set for themselves and that the head coach sets for them," he said. "That was not the plan."

The euphoria surrounding the Browns has further convinced Dorsey that Freddie Kitchens is the right coach. Kitchens' first job as a head coach — at any level — will

require him to not only strategize and develop players but manage major personalities in Beckham, quarterback Baker Mayfield and receiver Jarvis Landry.

Dorsey isn't worried about Kitchens.

"Freddie is one of those individuals who I love because he is so straightforward and honest," Dorsey said. "He is direct. He is going to set expectations high. There is that accountability level. He will make players be accountable."

A three-time Pro Bowler and one of the game's most exciting players, Beckham comes to Cleveland with a sparkling resume tainted by some self-centered antics. He can be distracting and divisive.

After signing him to a five-year, \$90 million contract in August, the Giants appar-

ently grew tired of Beckham and traded him.

Dorsey is confident Beckham will be everything the Browns hope.

"I know Odell is very passionate, know he is competitive and I know he can help this football team," Dorsey said. "If you can get the chance to acquire a guy like that, you know what? Take a shot at him."

NOTES: Dorsey would not comment directly about interest in S Eric Berry, who was released by Kansas City earlier this week. "I have known Eric Berry for a long time," said Dorsey, who spent four seasons with the Chiefs. "He is a fine, fine person. Of course, we are going to do our research, and if we feel that he fits this organization, of course we will make some calls to his representatives." □





In this Sunday, Aug. 13, 2017 file photo, Ethiopia's Almaz Ayana leads Kenya's Hellen Onsando Obiri during the Women's 5000 meters final at the World Athletics Championships in London. Associated Press

## Ethiopia, Kenya push back as Diamond League drops 5,000m

By **GERALD IMRAY**  
AP Sports Writer

The IAAF's decision to drop the 5,000 meters from its Diamond League track and field series has been met with strong resistance from Ethiopia and Kenya, where one former world champion accused the sport's governing body of trying to "kill long-distance running." The Ethiopian Athletics Federation has written to IAAF president Sebastian Coe asking the governing body to reconsider the change, which comes into effect from next year and was part of a larger overhaul of the series.

Athletics Kenya said it would also argue for the 5,000 to be restored and would ask African nations to come together in opposition to the IAAF's decision at a meeting of the African track body next month.

The IAAF this week announced a plan to revamp the Diamond League from 2020, reducing the series to 12 meetings and a finals event. There will now be 24 disciplines at each meet — 12 for men and 12 for women.

The 5,000 meters was one of the disciplines to be cut, leaving the 3,000 as the longest race on the schedule.

"They want to kill long-distance running," two-time 10,000-meter world champion Moses Tanui of Kenya said in a phone interview

with The Associated Press on Friday. "I think (the reason) is the dominance of our athletes in long distances."

Ethiopia's opposition came in a letter from track federation interim president Derartu Tulu. She wrote in Thursday's letter addressed to Coe: "We totally disagree with the decisions made."

Tulu, a two-time Olympic champion in the 10,000 meters, urged the IAAF to reconsider.

"(It's) not fair to countries like ours who are very competitive in long-distance running, and these distances are our cultural sports and also our identity," she wrote.

The Diamond League is the highest-profile athletics competition outside of the world championships and the Olympics. But its format underwent a yearlong review in an attempt to find a product that was more pleasing to television viewers and more engaging for fans.

The changes were aimed at creating "a faster-paced 90-minute television event" for each meet, the IAAF said. In an effort to find a more compact, TV-friendly format, the 5,000 meters was one of the events to lose out. "That chance has been curtailed and therefore we are appealing to the IAAF to consider that position," Tuwei said. □



Roger Federer, of Switzerland, chases a ball against Hubert Hurkacz, of Poland at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament Friday, March 15, 2019, in Indian Wells, Calif. Associated Press

### INDIANWELLS

Continued from Page 17

"Playing against young guys to eventually get to Rafa, that's exciting," said Federer, who also faced an opponent the same age as Khachanov.

Nadal's right knee flared up in the second set for the first time during the tournament. He called for a trainer who applied tape just below the knee. The trainer returned again with Nadal leading 3-2 in the second set.

"My goal and my idea is be ready for tomorrow," Nadal said. "I cannot guarantee how I'm going to wake up tomorrow morning."

Knee problems have dogged the 32-year-old Spaniard in recent years, and they cut short his 2018 season after the U.S. Open in September.

"I love to play on hard (courts), but probably my body doesn't love it that much," Nadal said. "As I say before, is not only about today, is about tomorrow. Maybe we're going to pay the price at the age of 45 or something. That will be not nice. When I see some old legends walking around the tour, is tough to see."

Federer is on a five-match winning streak against Nadal, who lost to him all four times they played in 2017, including the last time at the Shanghai Masters in October of that year.

"You look back at what I did well there, but you can't just copy-paste and

play exactly the same thing again," Federer said.

The other semifinal Saturday pairs Milos Raonic and Dominic Thiem.

In the women's semifinals later Friday, Canadian teenager Bianca Andreescu took on No. 6 Elina Svitolina and No. 8 Angelique Kerber faced No. 23 Belinda Bencic.

Nadal improved to 6-0 against Khachanov, although it was tougher and longer than Federer's win.

Nadal trailed 6-5 before Khachanov's forehand error forced the second tiebreaker, which Nadal dominated to close out the match that lasted just over two hours.

"He's unbelievable in defense," Khachanov said. "When you want to try maybe just to play more safe then he suddenly steps in and he counterattacks. He steps in and then he starts moving you, and then you are again in trouble."

Federer believes Nadal is playing better than he did in losing the Australian Open final to Novak Djokovic, who was upset earlier in the week.

"When Rafa is healthy, especially in a place like here in Indian Wells where he feels comfortable, he's clearly very tough to play," Federer said.

Against Hurkacz, Federer fought off two break points in the second set, including the last game when he closed the match with a forehand winner off a short

ball.

"Not that I didn't expect it," Federer said, "but it definitely went better than I thought it would."

Hurkacz, a 22-year-old Pole, earned three-set upsets of No. 28 Lucas Pouille, No. 6 Kei Nishikori and No. 24 Denis Shapovalov to make his first ATP Masters 1000 quarterfinal against his childhood idol. Federer was playing in his 83rd at this level.

"Playing against him for the first time on the big stadium of a great crowd here was for sure different feeling," Hurkacz said.

Federer won his 100th career title in Dubai recently, leaving him eight from tying Jimmy Connors' record for most in the Open era. At 37, he became the oldest player to win a tour-level title since Marty Riessen won at Lafayette, Louisiana, in 1979 at the same age.

"I'm holding my serve comfortably. I'm in a good place mentally when I go into my service games," Federer said. "It showed this week thus far, so I hope I can keep that up."

Federer earned the only break of the first set in the fifth game. Trailing 3-2 in the second set, Hurkacz had a break point, but Federer closed the game with consecutive forehand winners and an ace.

Hurkacz aced Federer to trail 5-4. Federer netted back-to-back volleys to give Hurkacz hope and another break point. □



# Real change in baseball is yet to come

By TIM DAHLBERG  
AP Sports Columnist

Five seconds hardly seems worth talking about, and in a way it's not. Trimming the time between innings might save a minute or two over the length of a game, but the real heavy lifting toward solving baseball's many issues is still to come. Eliminating one mound visit for the upcoming season isn't going to suddenly make baseball America's Pastime once again, either. America has moved on, even as a dedicated core of fans keeps baseball propped up and keeps profits flowing to owners. Actually, the changes announced Thursday in an agreement between Major League Baseball and the players unions don't do much of anything to make the game better in 2019. If anything, they are merely Rob Manfred's way to show that he's trying to do something — anything, really — to keep baseball from growing too stale.

Still, it's a start in a sport that in normal times resists changes like no other. And it's a signal that there is a might just be a new willingness among owners and players to make the game great once again.

Baby steps at best, but that's what baseball is. Keeping things like they

have been in the past is part of its charm and a big part of the reason it has been around and is still relevant after more than a century and a half.

And, really, were you expecting more?

Maybe next year when Manfred is free to introduce rules requiring relievers face at least three batters. Maybe a few years from now after issues like the shift and the declining number of balls put in play are finally tackled.

Hopefully never when it comes to the DH, which has no place in the National League despite the best efforts of the union to get it implemented.

The agreement announced Thursday was unprecedented if only because both management and the union found enough common ground to make a deal. That it got made was groundbreaking in a way because the two sides rarely agree on anything, but the reason it got made was largely because neither side was forced to give up much.

The owners got superficial changes that will make it look like they're trying to speed up the game. The union got a chance to reopen contract negotiations, three years before the current collective bar-



Arizona Diamondbacks' Steven Souza Jr. (28) and Eduardo Escobar (5) lead players out of the dugout before a spring training baseball game against the San Francisco Giants Thursday, March 14, 2019, in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Associated Press

gaining agreement expires. That's important for players because they took their eye off the ball in the last negotiations. While they asked for things like more days off and private chefs in every clubhouse, owners got increases in the luxury tax that prompted more teams to cut veterans who cost them money and chilled the free agent market.

Beginning contract talks not even halfway through the current agreement doesn't mean players will get the changes they want

or that there will be labor peace in 2021. But it does mean both sides can begin exchanging ideas that might lead toward a longer agreement.

"How things manifest themselves moving forward remains to be seen," union chief Tony Clark said.

Under the agreement, breaks between innings will be five seconds shorter this season and teams will be allowed only five visits to the mound each game instead of six. The union agreed not to fight new rules that make a reliever

face at least three batters or end an inning next year, while owners agreed not to try and implement a pitching clock until 2022 at the earliest.

Again, baby steps. But baseball fans should cheer the fact the two sides are at least talking so baseball doesn't get sucked into the labor disputes that ruined the sport for many fans in the 1990s. What comes next will determine just how serious players and owners are in making desperately needed changes to the game itself. □

## Phillies star Harper hit by pitch, exits with bruised foot

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP) — New Phillies star Bryce Harper sustained a bruised right foot when he was hit by a pitch during a spring training game Friday, but manager Gabe Kapler said the team wasn't overly worried about the injury. Initial X-rays were negative, the club said. Harper then left the ballpark for more detailed X-rays.

"Bryce has a right foot contusion," Kapler said after a 3-2 win over Toronto. "Right now we don't have reason for major concern, but ob-

viously we want to go inside and take a look first." "Certainly extra scary given where we are in camp," he said. "We're confident and we understand we have a good club on the field and we're confident that Bryce is going to be all right."

Many in the crowd at Spectrum Field gasped when Harper was struck by a 96 mph fastball from Toronto rookie Trent Thornton in the sixth inning. The slugging outfielder went down to the dirt, clutched his ankle and stayed on the ground

for a few moments.

Harper was checked by a trainer, limped toward the dugout with assistance and soon hobbled toward the clubhouse.

Recently signed to a record \$330 million, 13-year contract, Harper was playing his fourth exhibition. He is 0 for 5 in 10 plate appearances.

Harper had hoped to play three straight games starting Friday.

"I think it's a little premature to speculate on lost at-bats or anything like that,"



Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper rolls on the dirt holding his leg after getting hit by a pitch against the Toronto Blue Jays during the sixth inning in a spring training baseball game, Friday, March 15, 2019, in Clearwater, Fla.

Associated Press

Kapler said. "First and foremost, we probably have to get inside and meet with

our medical team and discuss it. But again, not overly concerned right now." □



# Facebook launches AI to find and remove 'revenge porn'

BY RACHEL LERMAN

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Facebook is rolling out technology to make it easier to find and remove intimate pictures and videos posted without the subject's consent, often called "revenge porn."

Currently, Facebook users or victims of revenge porn have to report the inappropriate pictures before content moderators will review them. The company has also suggested that users send their own intimate images to Facebook so that the service can identify any unauthorized uploads. Many users, however, balked at the notion of sharing revealing photos or videos with the social-media giant, particularly given its history of privacy failures.



In this April 4, 2013 file photo, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg walks at the company's headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif.

Associated Press

venge porn. Many such laws came up in the past several years as posting of non-consensual images and videos has proliferated. New York's law, which passed in February, allows victims to file lawsuits against perpetrators and makes the crime a misdemeanor.

Facebook has been working to combat the spread of revenge porn on its site for years, but has largely relied on people proactively reporting the content up until now. But that means by the time it's reported, someone else has already seen it, chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg said in an interview with The Associated Press. And it's often tough and embarrassing for a victim to report a photo of themselves.

"This is about using technology to get ahead of the problem," Sandberg said.

Facebook still sees user-contributed photos as one way to address the problem, and says it plans to expand that program to more countries. It allows people to send in photos they fear might be circulated through encrypted links. Facebook then creates a digital code of the image so it can tell if a copy is ever uploaded and deletes the original photo from its servers.

The company does not expect the new technology to catch every instance of revenge porn, and said it will still rely on users reporting photos and videos. □

## Tokyo's Olympics may become known as the 'Robot Games'

By STEPHEN WADE

AP Sports Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Tokyo's Olympics may become known as the "Robot Games."

Organizers on Friday showed off robots that will be used at the new National Stadium to provide assistance for fans using wheelchairs.

Tokyo Olympic official Masaaki Komiya pointed out that Japan is known for its robot technology, and the 2020 Summer Games are a good place to show off.

"Robots should not overwhelm people," Komiya, the vice director general to the Tokyo Olympics, told a news conference. "Robots are something that have an amicable relationship with human beings and can work together. That's the kind of robots we envision."

The robots are made by major Olympic sponsor Toyota Motor Corp. Toyota officials said 16 of the so-called "human support robots" will be used at the National Stadium with five other "delivery support robots" also being available.



A robot passes a basket containing drinks to a woman in wheelchair during an unveiling event in Tokyo Friday, March 15, 2019.

Associated Press

Not to be outdone, Panasonic Corp.— also a major Olympic sponsor — showed off its "power assist suit." When worn, the suit offers support to the back and hip area and allows for heavy objects to be lifted with less effort. Panasonic said 20 of the suits will be used at the Olympics and could help guests with their luggage and with other lifting chores.

"Through this occasion, people in the world will be able to realize how advanced Japan is in terms of robot technology," Hideyo Hirata, director of technol-

ogy services for the Tokyo Olympics, told reporters.

Minoru Yamauchi of Toyota, the general manager for 2020 Robot Development, said the automaker is branching out and becoming a "mobility company."

"We have been looking at how we can support the daily lives of people, and how we can develop robots that can partner with daily life," Yamauchi said. "In the Tokyo Olympics, there will be many guests in wheelchairs and we would like them enjoy the games without worrying about their mobility." □

The company's new machine learning tool is designed to find and flag the pictures automatically, then send them to humans to review.

Facebook and other social media sites have struggled to monitor and contain the inappropriate posts that users upload, from violent threats to conspiracy theories to inappropriate photos.

Facebook has faced harsh criticism for allowing offensive posts to stay up too long, for not removing posts that don't meet its standards and sometimes for removing images with artistic or historical value. Facebook has said it's been working on expanding its moderation efforts, and the company hopes its new technology will help catch some inappropriate posts. The technology, which will be used across Facebook and Instagram, was trained using pictures that Facebook has previously confirmed were revenge porn. It is trained to recognize a "nearly nude" photo — a lingerie shot, perhaps — coupled with derogatory or shaming text that would suggest someone uploaded the photo to embarrass or seek revenge on someone else.

At least 42 states have passed laws against re-





# US health officials move to tighten sales of e-cigarettes

By **MATTHEW PERRONE**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. health regulators are moving ahead with a plan designed to keep e-cigarettes out of the hands of teenagers by restricting sales of most flavored products in convenience stores and online.

The new guidelines, first proposed in November, are the latest government effort to reverse what health officials call an epidemic of underage vaping.

E-cigarettes typically heat a flavored nicotine solution into an inhalable vapor. Federal law bans their sale to those under 18, but 1 in 5 high school students report using e-cigarettes, according to the latest survey published last year.

Under proposed guidelines released Wednesday by the Food and Drug Administration, e-cigarette makers would restrict sales of most flavored products to stores that verify the age of customers entering the



In this April 11, 2018, file photo, a high school student uses a vaping device near a school campus in Cambridge, Mass.

Associated Press

store or include a separate, age-restricted area for vaping products. Compa-

nies would also be expected to use third-party, identity-verification technology

for online sales. Companies that don't follow the requirements

risk having their products pulled from the market, the FDA said.

"The onus is now on the companies and the vaping industry to work with us to try and bring down these levels of youth use, which are simply intolerable," FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said in an interview. The restrictions won't apply to three flavors that the FDA says appeal more to adults than teenagers: tobacco, menthol and mint.

The rise in teen vaping has been driven mainly by new cartridge-based products like Juul, a heavily-marketed brand that has become a scourge in U.S. high schools. The rechargeable, odorless device can be used discreetly in bathrooms, hallways and even classrooms.

The Silicon Valley-based company voluntarily tightened retail sales of its fruit and candy-flavored pods last year, ahead of the FDA announcement. □

# US job openings rise, outnumber the unemployed by 1 million

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. employers posted nearly 7.6 million open jobs in January, near a record high set in November, evidence that businesses are still hungry for workers despite signs the economy has slowed.

The Labor Department said Friday that hiring also rose and the number of people quitting their jobs picked up. Quits are a sign of a healthy economy, because people typically leave a job for another, usually higher-paying, one. The tally of available jobs now outnumbers the unemployed by roughly 1 million. Openings began to outpace the unemployed last spring, for the first time in the 18 years the data has been tracked.

"The question now is, will workers be increasingly tempted to switch to new jobs or will their current employers raise wages to keep them?" said Nick Bunker, an economist at job listings website Indeed.

The strong job market is al-



In this March 7, 2019, photo visitors to the Pittsburgh veterans job fair meet with recruiters at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

ready pushing up wages more quickly, with hourly wages rising in February at the fastest pace in nine years.

The report, known as the Job Openings and Labor Turnover survey, or JOLTS,

also showed that layoffs declined, a reassuring sign that employers weren't spooked by the government shutdown, which ended Jan. 25, or the sharp drop in the stock market in December.

Nearly 3.5 million people quit their jobs in January, up 2.9 percent from the previous month. That could force employers to pay more to prevent their workers from quitting.

"The high quit rate is the

major source of upward wage pressure, because high turnover costs are a strong motivator for employers to raise wages to retain their top talent," said Julia Pollak, labor economist at ZipRecruiter.

The economy grew at a healthy clip last year of 2.9 percent, the fastest pace in four years. But trade tensions with China, slowing global growth and signs of caution among consumers have weighed on the economy early this year. Many economists forecast growth could fall below 1 percent in the first quarter.

The JOLTS report suggests the job market remains strong and bolsters most analysts' expectations that steady hiring and rising wages will support faster growth later this year.

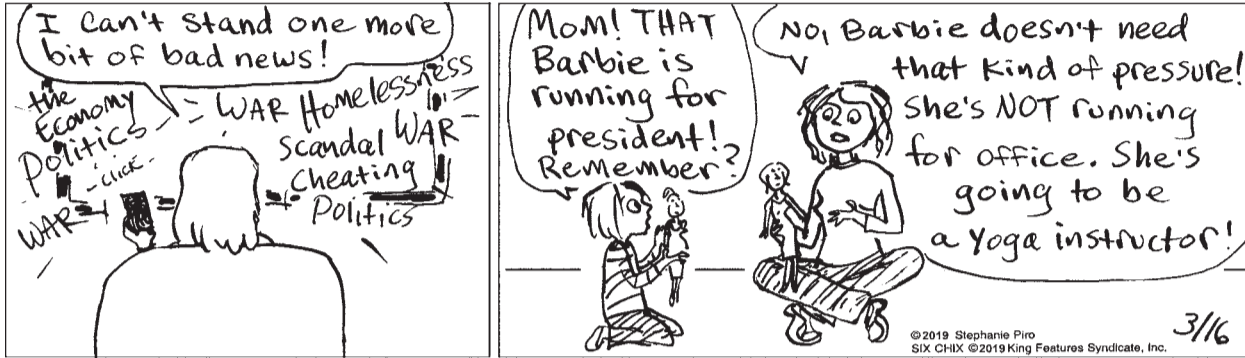
Openings have fallen slightly to 7.58 million since the record high of 7.63 million in November. The data was sharply revised this month to show that there were more open jobs late last year. □



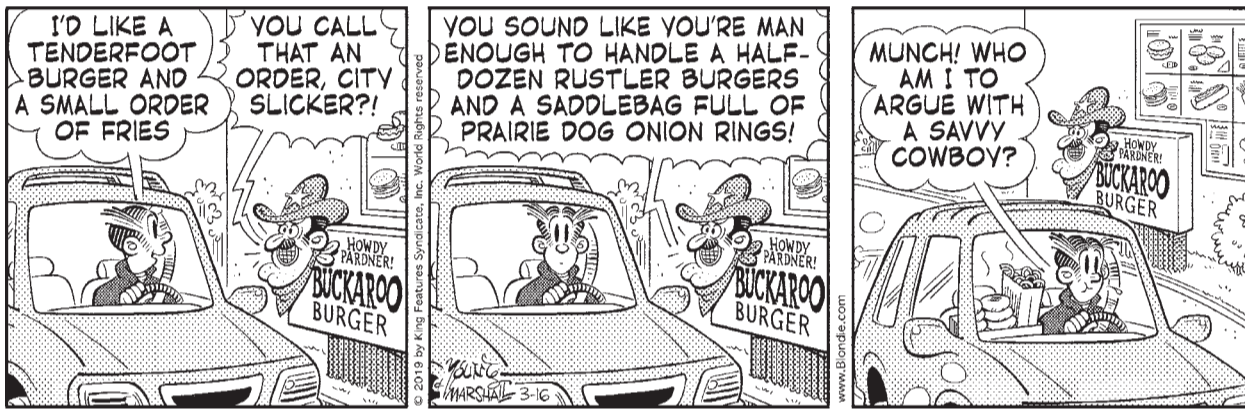
**Mutts**



**6 Chix**



**Blondie**



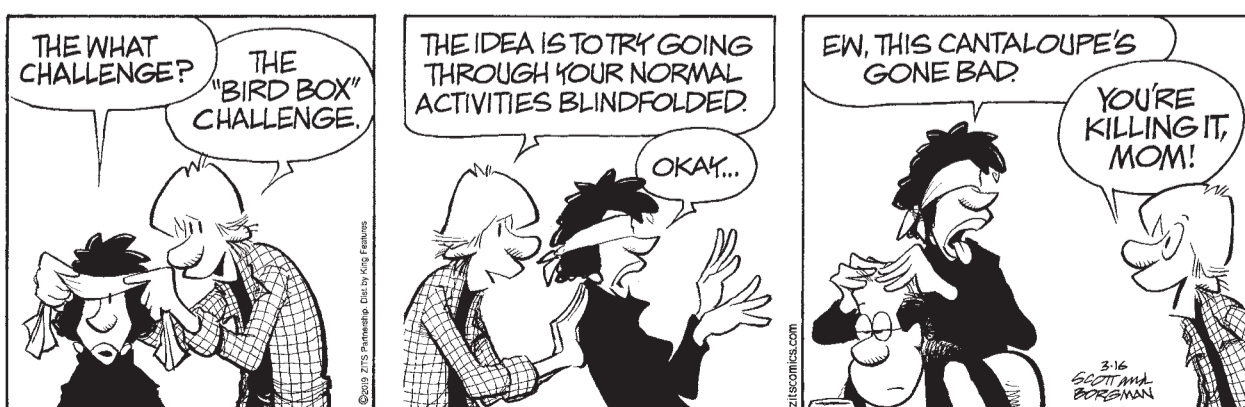
**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

3								
	2	9		4	7			8
7			1				9	
5							6	
	6		4		3			
9							7	
6			2				8	
1	3	7		6	2			
							5	

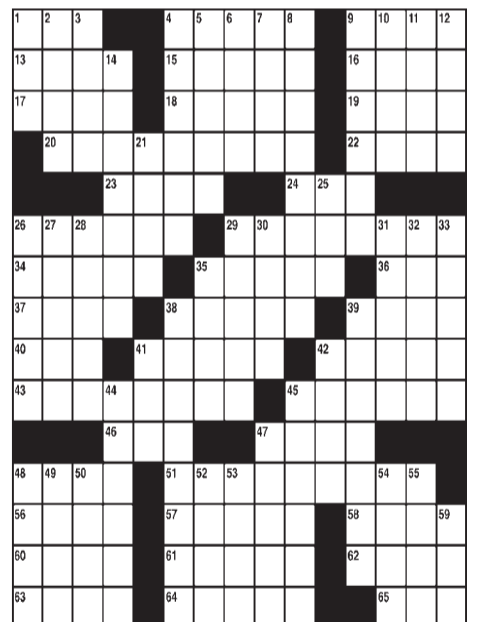
Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 3/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3	7	9	4	8	1	5	6	2
6	1	8	5	3	2	7	9	4
5	4	2	6	9	7	3	1	8
8	6	3	7	5	9	4	2	1
4	9	7	2	1	6	8	5	3
2	5	1	8	4	3	6	7	9
7	8	4	9	2	5	1	3	6
9	3	6	1	7	8	2	4	5
1	2	5	3	6	4	9	8	7

- ACROSS**
- Quiche ingredient
  - George Eliot's "Mamer"
  - Make jokes
  - Wild hog
  - Happening
  - Sore
  - Hay bundle
  - Revolving part in an engine
  - Facial feature
  - Wild West outlaw
  - "The Star State"
  - Yankee Doodle's horse
  - to rest; bury
  - Umpire's call
  - Feeling after a big meal
  - Wooden box
  - Locked metal boxes
  - Actress Larter
  - University in Houston
  - miss; haphazard
  - Toot one's own horn
  - Sopped
  - Labyrinths
  - Have a snack
  - Bugged
  - Airport check-in machines
  - "Mary... a little lamb..."
  - Wee
  - Frontal part of the brain
  - New Testament book
  - Feels rotten
  - Lunchtimes
  - Person, place or thing
  - Classic board game
  - Uneven
  - Lawn mower brand
  - Watches
  - Delay; put off
  - Berry or Grifey



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 3/16/19

**Friday's Puzzle Solved**

B	E	G	S	T	E	A	M	A	R	C	H			
M	A	X	I	T	R	A	L	A	T	I	L	E		
P	L	O	T	R	E	S	P	E	C	T	F	U	L	
H	E	R	D	I	E	T	S	H	A	T	E	D		
	B	L	E	N	D		D	O	C					
S	K	I	N	G		B	A	S	K	E	T			
A	N	T	S	Y	B	R	I	B	E	N	O	T		
N	E	A	T	A	L	I	A	S		S	T	A	R	
D	E	N	S	P	U	D	S		C	U	R	S	E	
S	T	A	L	E	R		D	E	L	E	T	E		
	M	A	X		L	A	N	K	A					
O	F	T	E	N	G	R	A	N	T		T	A	N	
W	R	O	N	G	D	O	I	N	G		S	I	G	
N	E	R	D		D	A	N	C	E		H	E	E	L
S	E	E	S		E	L	D	E	R		E	S	S	

- DOWN**
- Diminish
  - Spur on
  - Powerful wind
  - Calm
  - Soap brand
  - "Smile Be Your Umbrella"
  - "...and giving up the chimney he rose..."
  - Baby's transport
  - Actress Smith
  - Reverberate
  - Part of the leg
  - Tim Daly's sis
  - Period of relief
  - Jab
  - Jolson & Roker
  - Leftover fragment
  - Like a cliché
  - Churchill Downs events
  - Destined
  - Eerie sightings
  - Merits
  - Loose, as a rope
  - Exhales audibly
  - Clothing tag info
  - Became insensitive
  - Capable of floating
  - culpa
  - Skirt style
  - Postgraduate papers
  - Mouth, slangily
  - Past or present
  - Mantilla fabric
  - Greasy
  - Azure or navy
  - Tiny skin opening
  - Place for a horseshoe
  - Breakfast kitchen recess
  - Certain
  - Prefix for fat or sense

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# Researchers find hammerhead 'nursery' off Galapagos Island

By GONZALO SOLANO

**QUITO, Ecuador (AP)** — Researchers in Ecuador say they have discovered a "nursery" of hammerhead sharks off the coast of the Galapagos Islands, a find that may help them track and protect the endangered predators. The head of the project, Eduardo Espinosa, said the group had found 20 hammerheads in the area along Santa Cruz island, and was able to attach monitors to five of them. "That site, where the babies spent two or three years, is important not only for the Galapagos but on a world scale because it gives hope for the protection and conservation of a species," he said.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature lists hammerhead sharks as endangered species that have suffered sharply declining numbers in recent years around the world. They are vulnerable partly because they breed relatively few times, their schools are sometimes caught in fishing nets and their fins are prized in Asian markets.

Marine biologist Alex Hearn of San Francisco University in Quito said researchers had believed that the hammerheads gave birth along continental coasts, so the discovery of the island nursery opens new lines of study.

The hammerheads are an attraction for divers visiting the Galapagos, about 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) west of the mainland, and an image of a hammerhead is part of the Galapagos National Park's emblem. □

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# California science exhibit explains the dog-human friendship

By JOHN ROGERS  
Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Did people domesticate dogs or was it the other way around? And why do these two species seem to think so much alike, act so much alike and get along so well? The California Science Center has spent the past five years sniffing out the answers to those and hundreds of other vexing canine questions. It will begin revealing the conclusions Saturday with an ambitious, if somewhat lighthearted, new exhibition called "Dogs! A Science Tail."

And, yes, real dogs will be there. (Just try hiding contraband from that drug-sniffing dog and see what happens.)

"It's really not about just dogs and science. It's really about how dogs and humans are both social animals. About how dogs and humans have evolved together over thousands of years. And the fact that because we are both social animals, we've learned to work together," said Jeffrey Rudolph, the center's president and a devoted dog lover who worked for years to pull this show together.

As he spoke during a recent pre-opening walk-through of the exhibit, he paused briefly at what he imagines might be its most popular stop for the pre-teen crowd — a replica of a fire hydrant next to a button that you can push to smell what a dog smells.

"But we just smell pee," Rudolph explained with a laugh. "A dog can tell what dog was there, what time they were there and actually which direction they were going."

It's one of the ways dogs can evaluate how safe the surroundings are. It's also



In this Tuesday, March 12, 2019 photo students from the Theodore T. Alexander Science Center School play with interactive display at the California Science Center in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

how they manage to mark time without wristwatches or smartphones.

"They have an amazing ability to learn information," continues Rudolph, noting the 300 million sensory receptor sites they carry in their noses far outnumber our 6 million.

Nine similar stations allow people to see like a dog does (their color vision is limited, but they pick up motion better than us), determine what a person has just eaten by licking their hand and hear sounds so subtle we're oblivious to them.

"In a bedroom they can hear a termite scratching on the wall," Rudolph says. Such skills allow an avalanche rescue dog to sniff out a person buried in snow in a minute's time while its handlers stand there without a clue. They can sniff out bombs people would never find until they exploded.

But those are the highly trained working dogs, like

those shown in the center's Imax Theatre, where the Cosmic Picture film "Superpower Dogs" will play throughout the exhibition's run.

As Captain America actor Chris Evans narrates, viewers watch dogs from around the world help save people from drowning off the coast of Italy, rescue people trapped in collapsed buildings, even track down Kenyan poachers preying on endangered elephants and rhinos.

In the museum itself, people could watch Garmin, a 2-year-old golden Labrador retriever who is about to graduate from guide-dog school, take blindfolded folks through a maze of obstacles during a demonstration earlier this week.

When one person hesitated, Garmin pulled gently on his leash as if to say, "Come on, let's go. I've got this."

Depending on the day, there will be therapy dogs, rescue dogs, drug-sniffing dogs and others demonstrating their abilities.

For those more interested in mutts like the one sleeping at the foot of their bed, there is also plenty to see, including a small gallery of original dog paintings by legendary American artist Norman Rockwell. They are on loan from "Star Wars" filmmaker George Lucas.

Although "Dogs! A Science Tail" will travel to museums across the country after it closes in Los Angeles early next year, the California Science Center is the only place to see the paintings until Lucas opens his own Museum of Narrative Art down the street in 2021.

But do those dogs that Rockwell immortalized playing with kids, comforting owners, even comically tying up traffic in a crowded Los Angeles alley in 1949, really love us?

Or are they just trying to wheedle another treat when they open those big black eyes of theirs and

give us that look?

"If you look a dog in the eye, a dog will look back at you and you will produce oxytocin," Diane Perlov, the center's senior vice president for exhibitions, says of the chemical known as the love hormone because of the feelings it evokes in people.

"And," she adds, "the dog will produce oxytocin in his own body from looking back at you. It's a mutual affection."

A chimp, on the other hand, will just look away.

So who launched this enduring love affair that has resulted in dogs and people sharing living quarters in more than 60 million American households?

Scientists can't quite figure that out. They know dogs descended from wolves and that wolves and people crossed paths more than 10,000 years ago, says Perlov, an anthropologist.

Both wolves and people could see the other was pretty good at hunting for food. But did the wolves walk up and offer their help in that endeavor? Or did people make the first move?

Whoever did, they created an enduring bond.

"It's that social bond and our ability to communicate with them, and our ability to understand each other that forms the basis of our relationship," Perlov says. □

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# Recovered de Kooning painting back in the spotlight

PHOENIX (AP) — More than 30 years after it was brazenly stolen from an Arizona museum, a painting by Willem de Kooning reportedly worth \$100 million is going back in the public eye where it all began.

The University of Arizona Museum of Art in Tucson is throwing a fundraiser and homecoming party of sorts for "Woman-Ochre" on Sunday before it gets whisked away for months of restoration work. For some who worked at the museum when the painting was stolen in 1985, the celebration still seems surreal.

Lee Karpiscak, who was the curator of collections at the time, recalls the entire staff feeling devastated. "We tried to be realistic about it," she said. "All these scenarios go through your head and make you crazy. We certainly hoped it would be returned."

It was the morning after Thanksgiving when authorities said a man and a woman showed up at the museum. A security guard and students working the front desk were the only ones there, according to Karpiscak. Police said the woman distracted the guard with small-talk while the man cut the painting right out of the frame, leaving edges of the canvas still attached. The entire heist lasted around 15 minutes.

"How do you eat your Thanksgiving dinner knowing you're going to steal a painting the next day?" Karpiscak said.

There was no security camera system set up then. The next few days were a flurry of activity as FBI agents interviewed the entire staff. But no significant leads developed. Occasionally the museum would get calls from people claiming to know where the painting was.

But Karpiscak said they were callers looking to get back at someone they didn't like. On the theft's 30th anniversary, the museum displayed the empty frame at a news conference in hopes of generating tips.

Then in 2017, a furniture and



This August 2017 photo shows "Woman-Ochre," a painting by Willem de Kooning, being readied for examination by University of Arizona Museum of Art staff Nathan Saxton, left, and Kristen Schmidt in Tucson, Ariz.

Associated Press

antiques dealer in Silver City, New Mexico, bought the painting at an estate sale. When researching the piece, he discovered an article about the theft. He notified the museum. A conservator with the university found it to be a per-

fect match.

The furniture dealer had gotten the painting from the estate of Jerry and Rita Alter. The art work had been hanging in their Cliff, New Mexico, home. Relatives also discovered a photo of the couple taken Thanks-

giving Day 1985 in Tucson. Jerry Alter died in 2012 and his wife in 2017. Authorities have never publicly called them suspects.

Jill McCabe, a spokeswoman for the FBI in Phoenix, said an investigation remains ongoing so the

agency could not comment.

Because of the investigation, it was not until last November that the FBI fully released the painting back to the museum, curator Olivia Miller said.

"We had it here but we weren't allowed to move it or display it or do anything like that," Miller said.

She said museum staffers have been overwhelmed "in a good way" with the anticipation of the painting being on view again — even if just for a day. And of course, there will be plenty of safeguards around the painting.

"Our security is much different than it was 1985," Miller said. "Certainly at this event, we will definitely have extra eyes."

The oil painting, which was donated to the museum in 1958, is one in an iconic series by the Dutch-American artist that explores the figure of a woman. The piece features the abstract expressionist's signature broad paint strokes, depicting various colors across the female body. □

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# The new animated 'Wonder Park' is at war with itself

By MARK KENNEDY  
Associated Press

There's always that moment on roller coasters when the lap bar gets locked down and you slowly, agonizingly ride up to the first drop. You know the next few minutes are going to be harrowing — you just don't know how bad. So here's a warning about the new animated amusement park film "Wonder Park" — it's going to be more harrowing than you

can imagine.

A simple, bucolic beginning with the sunny characters exuberantly crying "Splendiferous!" leads to a post-apocalyptic, violent middle that includes killer plush dolls, deadly giant robots, lava and existential crisis. It then ends on a sickly sweet note. The tonal shifts alone are enough to make you want to hurl.

The cynicism and ultra-violence of Paramount's



This image released by Paramount Animation shows a scene from the animated film "Wonder Park."

Associated Press

"Wonder Park" undermines some top-notch animation, which includes astonishingly realized things like matted fur on a boar, life-like potholes and intricate leaves and ferns in a forest. There are roller coaster moments that will make you feel like you're on the ride yourself, gripping your seat. And John Oliver voices a rather great sassy porcupine. But the film's message of always keeping a creative light shining gets horribly lost in the darkness.

The story centers on a creative, green-eyed, red-haired girl named June (voiced by Brianna Denski) who creates in her bedroom with her mom (Jennifer Garner, sweetness and light) a fantasy park filled with cool amusement park rides and colorful talking animals. She even brings to life a makeshift version on the streets in the film's best sequence. But tragedy leads her to abandon the park, until one day June discovers it seems to have been actually constructed in a nearby forest and abandoned.

Great idea, right? Sure, until we realize this worn-at-the-edges park is now more like Jurassic Park than the Magic Kingdom. Three-quarters of it looks like smoldering Nagasaki. The thousands of

adorable plush toy souvenir monkeys in June's park have turned into a swarming legion of weapon-wielding Chimpanzombies who try to drag away their screaming prey or control a giant robot that tries to crush all the cute animals. Not splendiferous.

June is flabbergasted. She asks — like you may — what's going on. "What does it look like?" says a giant blue grizzly bear. "We're at war." Thus begins what feels like hours of "Mad Max" meets "Interstellar" as June and her band of ragtag, squabbling animals — including a solid Mila Kunis and a very emoting Norbert Leo Butz — try to restart the park and banish "the Darkness," a whirlpool of dark clouds in the heavens. (You may have a fun time explaining all this in the car with your kids on the way home. But that time may be quicker than you think; at a recent screening, a few young ones sobbed and immediately wanted to leave.)

Perhaps that mention of war is a telling one for this production, which does not list a director in its credits. (The previous person at the helm, Dylan Brown, was fired due to complaints of alleged inappropriate conduct.) Another obvious sign

of internecine conflict is the title — "Wonder Park" — but all the action takes place in "Wonderland," including all the park's signage and lines like this: "You are the wonder in Wonderland." Apparently, something less than wonderful was happening behind the scenes.

The screenplay by longtime writing partners Josh Appelbaum and Andre Nemec ("Mission Impossible 4: Ghost Protocol" and "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows") does try new and refreshing things, like having an Indian boy as a hero — when was the last time an animated figure yelled "Thank Krishna!?" — but also leans on some clichés, including one that should've been retired long ago: The Terminally Ill Parent Whose Absence Wrenchingly Teaches Our Hero Self-Sufficiency.

"Wonder Park" has a great premise about a spunky kid engineer and a world she constructs taking flight, but takes a few too many dark loop-de-loops and crashes hard. If you pass this amusement park, skip it.

"Wonder Park," a Paramount Animation release, is rated PG for "some mild thematic elements and action." Running time: 86 minutes. One and a half stars out of four. □

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SAT 1:00 | 2:55 | 4:50 | 6:45 | 8:40 | 10:35  
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# Imagine Dragons' leader on Oprah and brushing off the haters

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Imagine Dragons' Dan Reynolds is brushing the haters off his shoulders.

The Grammy-winning rock singer posted a lengthy note on Instagram two weeks ago, calling out bands like Slipknot, the 1975 and Foster the People for taking shots at Imagine Dragons, a band that has dominated the rock and pop charts since they emerged on the mainstream music scene in 2012. "I just feel like as artists we have so much. We're incredibly lucky to be doing what we're doing. We have a finite amount of time while we're here to create change and to do great things, to do big things. It's just, to me, counterproductive to all of us as artists to engage in menial, self-indulgent conversation, even for myself, even responding to it, which is not



In this Nov. 4, 2018 file photo, Dan Reynolds, of Imagine Dragons, winner of the award for Hollywood documentary for "Believer," poses in the press room at the Hollywood Film Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

something I've ever done before," Reynolds said in an interview with The Associ-

ated Press. "I said my peace — that's what I had to say about it.

I really don't have anything else to say on it because I feel like it's a disservice to

myself and a disservice to my time here on earth."

In his post Reynolds wrote, "How it could possibly make a kid feel 'not cool' listening to Imagine Dragons. I hate that thought. Wondering if my kids will be made fun of as they grow older because someone thinks my band isn't cool." He also wrote the negative vibes his band has been hit with has "added to the depression I've dealt with since youth."

What's provided solace for Reynolds? In a way, Oprah Winfrey.

"I just sat at this seminar here in Utah listening to Oprah speak about how she got where she is, and it's all about intention. Her main point was intention about how (and) where do you spend your time and how do you spend your words? And here's our finite amount of time on earth and what are you doing with it?" he explained. □

# How Kelli O'Hara honors her late friend onstage every night

By JOHN CARUCCI

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Kelli O'Hara was devastated by the recent death of fellow Broadway veteran Marin Mazzie, so she decided to honor her friend quietly onstage as she performs one of Mazzie's old roles in the latest revival of "Kiss Me, Kate."

"I have her with me every night. I make my entrance in the hat she made her entrance in," the Tony Award-winning actress said Thursday at the opening night of the musical.

In addition to the hat, O'Hara and actress Stephanie Styles offer fans another special gesture, even if they may not be aware of it. Both actresses fight over a dress onstage — the same one Mazzie wore in her final scene.

"So, Marin Mazzie is on our stage with us every night. And her life made such an impact on me, so I carry with her every night. She was one of the strongest women I know," O'Hara said.



This combination photo shows Broadway actresses Kelli O'Hara at the Tony Awards in New York on June 10, 2018, left, and Marin Mazzie at the Drama Desk Awards in New York on June 3, 2012.

Associated Press

Mazzie, a three-time Tony Award nominee known for powerhouse Broadway performances, died in September of ovarian cancer. She was 57.

Among her most famous roles was Lilli in a 1999-2001

revival of "Kiss Me, Kate," the same role O'Hara is playing now. O'Hara recalled seeing Mazzie play it and calling it "one of the most inspirational things I'd ever seen."

"I wanted to be that wom-

an. I wanted to play that strong character, and Marin was definitely one of my biggest inspirations," O'Hara said.

O'Hara and Mazzie's paths crossed often, with O'Hara seeing the older actress

in "Ragtime" some eight times and Mazzie replacing O'Hara in a revival of "The King and I" on Broadway in 2016.

"We've been friends over the years. Her loss is devastating. And I think of her every night," O'Hara said.

"Kiss Me, Kate" joins a long list of Golden Age musicals that are beloved, yet not politically correct for the times, especially during the #MeToo era. The latest revival about a love-hate relationship between two headstrong actors has been edited for a 2019 audience, including excising a spanking scene.

O'Hara said the edits were one of the biggest challenges of staging the musical. The creators evaluated everything to "take away the things that just are ugly and misogynistic. We kept the ones that are funny that we can learn from."

Co-star Will Chase said the challenge was to fix the show, which boasts a Cole Porter score, but "not to go crazy and whitewash the hell out of it." □





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